

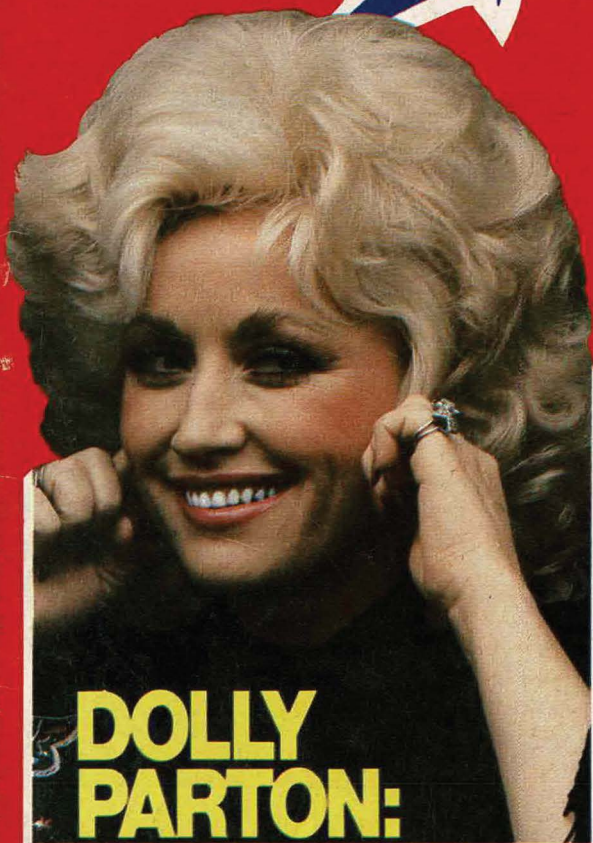
**TAMMY WYNETTE: SHE KNOWS THE "KILLER"
WILL TRY AGAIN**

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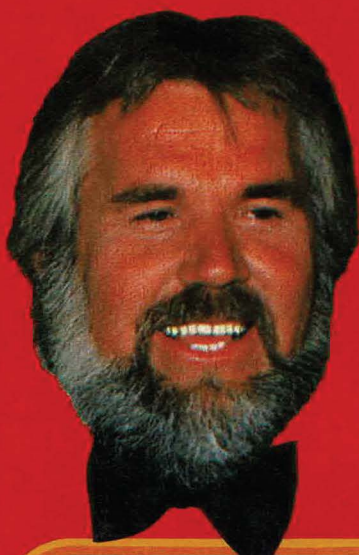
COUNTRY Music World

IDEAL ALL STAR SERIES
NUMBER 3

Ideal
MAGAZINE



**DOLLY
PARTON:
IF I LISTENED
TO A MAN I'D
STILL BE
WASHING
DIAPERS**



**KENNY ROGERS:
MUSIC MADE ME
WANT TO GO ON
LIVING**

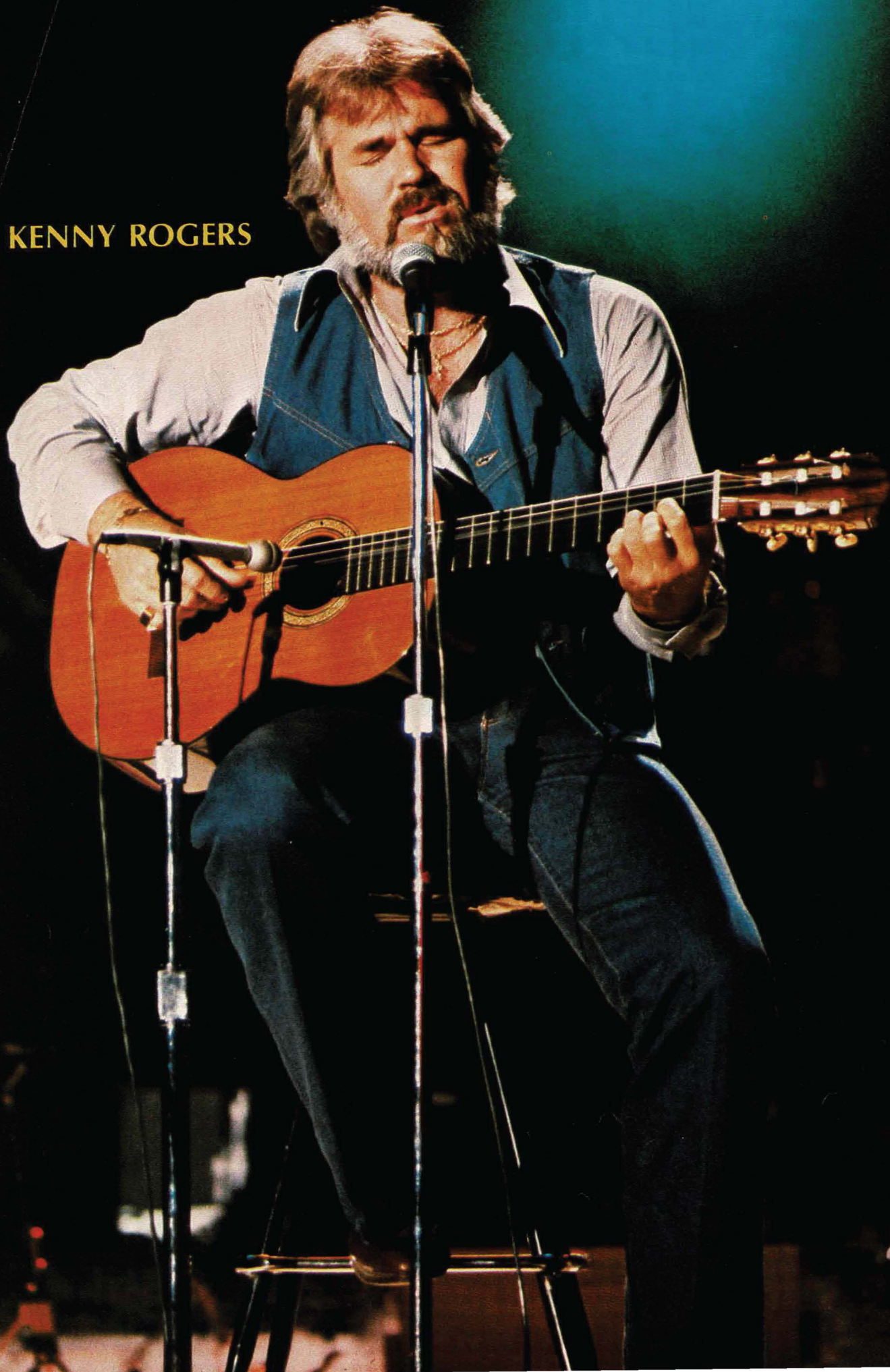
**WILLIE NELSON &
WAYLON JENNINGS:
COUNTRY'S REAL
ODD COUPLE**



**SISTERS
LORETTA LYNN &
CRYSTAL GAYLE:
FEUDIN',
FUSSIN',
FIGHTIN'**



KENNY ROGERS



COUNTRY MUSIC WORLD

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THE HISTORY OF COUNTRY MUSIC

It took its first "shape" with a man named Jones. But its real roots go way back in time.



The legendary country singers, Lester Flatt and Earl Scruggs, were among the first big stars of the "Grand Old Opry." They first caught the imagination of fans all over the country when they appeared on the Grand Old Opry radio show in 1945.

It's unmistakable. The moment your ear picks up the high-pitched notes that sound like a pack of tom cats who have just swallowed a dose of aphrodisiacs, you know you're listening to a country/western song.

The same high pitch can be heard in tunes that have come down after centuries in Celtic Britain (that would include Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Cornwall. The Isle of Man and — some of the "bagpipe playing areas of Spain and northern France, particularly Brittany. Many French-Canadian melodies resemble the songs of the American country scene precisely because they trace their origins back to the same Celtic motherlands).

There are those who say that the unique sound of the music derives from the instruments used to accompany the singers; the bag pipes, the reed pipes and the stretched skin drums. (Unlike most other drums, these resemble large embroidery hoops over which the skin is stretched.) Some music historians have carried the sound back into the Indo-European plains from which the Celts first emerged. The music came to America in waves; first by Scots-Irish and Welsh settlers and then by Irish railroad builders. In some areas the "British" based music fused with the Spanish and French music and produced the "Cajun" or "Bayou" sound heard most often in Louisiana and in Mississippi. (Elvis Presley was considered a "Bayou" musician and was not originally accepted by the Nashville audiences.)

Around about 1891 a man named Sam Jones built an "opry house" where singers and musicians could come to perform before audiences. In time that "opry house" became the "Grand Ole Opry House" and the city of Nashville grew up around it to become the world's "mecca" of country and western music.

Country music has gone through many changes. It evolved from old folk songs to "new" folk songs (of the 19th century) and even became part of Tin Pan Alley's output — and all of this while it owes its roots to Europe and, perhaps, the Asian steppes. It has also become a recognized American art form that all Americans can take pride in sharing and in helping to create.



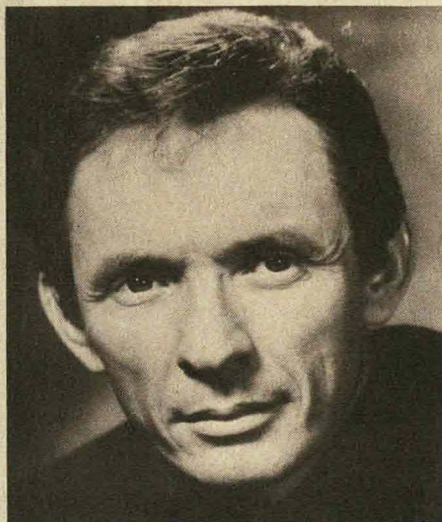
The brilliant Minnie Pearl became the most famous female in country music history.

Nashville Newsletter

Here's an exclusive "behind the headlines" look at what's been happening in the music capital of the world.

Crystal Gayle, who recently was voted Female Vocalist of the Year, has found that the country music industry is not really losing its identity; rather it's "broadening its appeal these days with more and more people turning to the music. I think that's due to people like **Waylon Jennings**, **Willie Nelson**, **Olivia Newton-John** and **Emmylou Harris**. They've made people aware of country music," she continued, "even though, like **Olivia**, it's been in the sense that she shouldn't be country. People started asking 'what is country?' and, as a follow through, started listening to country music."

This past October 20th was proclaimed **Roy Acuff Day**. **Acuff**, who has been dubbed "The King of Country Music," is one of the



It's reported that **Mel Tillis** just settled a "problem" that could have affected a planned overseas tour.

founders of country music and one of the staunchest defenders of its traditions. His dressing room at the Grand Ole Opry is #1 and he uses it to store the awards that don't fit in his home. Added to the awards and citations he can now house the Key to the City of Nashville, which he accepted on October 20th from **Mayor Richard Fulton**.

Six-time World Champion All-Around Cowboy and singer **Larry**

Mahan continues to keep the same fast-moving schedule as a singer and entertainer as he did when he was competing in 125 rodeos a year. **Mahan** has started work on a new record album with the help of some of his friends **Waylon Jennings** and his long-time drummer and record producer **Richie Albright** along with **Larry Gatlin** and brothers **Steve** and **Rudy**. Should be quite an album!

Jerry Lee Lewis has finally signed with Elektra/Asylum and is at work

Kentucky Rain indeed an important contribution to the lore of the blue-grass state. The song was **Elvis'** 50th gold record.

Lucy Comes To Nashville, starring **Lucille Ball**, was the first major network special to completely originate in Nashville and to have complete production in Music City. Taped this past September for a Thanksgiving airing on the CBS-TV network, the show featured such country music greats as **Ronnie**



Leave it to singer **Kenny Rogers** to get the great stars out to his Celebrity Softball game. In this case it's a couple of clowns plus **Steve Martin** (center) and **Lassie**.

on his first album for that label. The roster of players who will back *The Killer* has not yet been determined but should promise to be very interesting with some old-time rock & roll wild men.

Emmylou Harris was honored recently in Holland for her latest Warner's release *Quarter Moon In A Ten Cent Town*. The LP, distributed in the Netherlands by W.E.A. Records B.V., was awarded the coveted Edison Award as the Best International Album of the Year. The Edison Award, incidentally, is the equivalent of the American Grammy.

Eddie Rabbitt was named an honorary Kentucky Colonel last November 3rd in Lexington for his

Milsap, **Mel Tillis**, **Tom T. Hall**, **Barbara Mandrell**, **Lynn Anderson** and **The Oak Ridge Boys**.

Nashville will be home of yet another Hall of Fame. Construction is already underway for the Gospel Hall of Fame and will be a place of honor for gospel music and the international headquarters for the Gospel Music Association, whose primary purpose is to promote and perpetuate the good news of Christ through music.

The Rio Grande Band, musical stars of the hit Broadway musical *Best Little Whorehouse In Texas*, made a rare showcase appearance recently at New York's Other End. The band, with its Broadway run and the release of its first album, is emerging virtually unchallenged to

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- Would you like to relieve gas pains, ulcers, colitis, indigestion; help restore regularity and freedom from pain?

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For example, you can turn to the reference section and find out about rheumatic ailments, premature aging skin - or even stomach upset.

A common fruit, according to one researcher, helps protect you against indigestion.....gas.....heartburn.....even sour stomach. Modern research has shown that this fruit, which is commonly available in any supermarket, contains a special substance that cleanses the system. Find out how one doctor treated a 52 year old woman suffering from extremely painful hemorrhoids with this fruit. In three days, her improvement was remarkable and she needed no surgery. Another user found her gas pains disappeared like magic.

Before taking this fruit, the woman was spending almost \$10 a month for antacid tablets.

Constipation, Kidney and Bladder Relief

You'll find out about a common vegetable - used mainly as a food decoration at parties, which most people throw out. This pleasant tasting, mint-flavored vegetable can be used for dissolving kidney and bladder stones, according to researchers.

Learn about a common nut which the researchers say is good for constipation - having a definite laxative effect.

Rheumatism and Arthritis

A vegetable available widely in health food stores seems to have a beneficial action on some types of rheumatism - this vegetable that everyone forgets, has been hailed as a miracle healer, because of its ability to relax stiff fingers or gnarled joints according to the writer.

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Nashville Newsletter

establish itself as *the* contemporary Western Swing group. While **Rio Grande's** style and roots are all in traditional Texas Swing and Swing-based jazz, the group is reaching new audiences for this music by means of its smooth, up-to-date vocals and material, backed by piano, pedal steel and double fiddles played in harmony.

Where Country Meets Capitol Hill: **Chet Atkins** took time out at a recent affair in Washington D.C. to instruct fellow Tennessean, **Senator Howard Baker** on the very fine art of playing guitar. Renowned as the best guitarist in the world, **Chet** was the invited guest entertainer at the cocktail party and dinner held for the Republican senators of the 95th Congress. The event was hosted by **Senator and Mrs. Howard Baker** and **Senator and Mrs. Ted Stephens** for those senators who are retiring and those who will not be returning to Capitol Hill.

Word is that **Merle Haggard** recently got married to longtime girlfriend and fellow singer **Leona Williams**. She, by the way, chose **Merle's** ex-wife — (also **Buck Owens'** ex-wife) as her matron of honor.

The cast and crew of the popular country variety program **NASHVILLE ON THE ROAD** traveled to Cypress Gardens to video tape

seven shows to be seen nationally in November.

The production of Show Biz Inc., out of Nashville, Tennessee, featured the shows' regulars i.e. nationally known recording artists **Jim Ed Brown** and **Helen Cornelius**, comedian **Jerry Clower** and 15 year-old banjo and fiddle instrumentalist **Wendy Holcombe**.

Also featured were several other recording stars in the guest spots including **Porter Wagner**, **Barbara Mandrell**, **Buck Trent** and **Jim Stafford**.

The shooting segments for the seven 30-minute shows revolved around the many horticultural areas in the Gardens and the attraction's famous ski show.

Harold Reid of the **Statler Brothers** tells us he has a street sign proclaiming the inner loop area of Staunton, Va., their home town, as **Statler Blvd.** The honor was one of the highlights of the recent ninth annual Happy Birthday U.S.A. celebration, and brought a standing ovation from the crowd of over 50,000 people watching the ceremonies.

In making the presentation, **Mayor Michael E. Kivlighan** of Staunton pointed out that the **Statlers'** annual even raised funds for several local charities, and Staunton decided it was time to do something special for the **Statler Brothers**.

George Jones was in Los Angeles for the Academy of Country Music Award Show. He appeared at the Palomino Club during his stay. Both of his shows were sold out. The folks who came by got a little extra for their money when **Mickey Gilley** came on stage to play piano for **George**.



Linda Ronstadt's newest album, "Livin' in the U.S.A.," keeps the country touch.

During the course of the performance, **George** and **Mickey** got together and sang *Window Up Above*, which was a hit record for both of them.

In the past months **Freddy Fender** has made several appearances on national television. They include guest shots on the *Tonight Show*, the *Merv Griffin Show*, *Dinah!*, *Fifty Years of Country Music*, the *Academy of Country Music Award Show*, the *Rock and Roll Sports Classic*, the *CBS special Festival* and the *Jim Nabors Show*.

During **Freddy's** appearance on the *Nabors Show*, **Jim** walked into the audience and visited with **Freddy's** producer **Huey Meaux**.

Freddy reveals he learned to cook some goodies in *Dinah's* kitchen during his recent appearance.



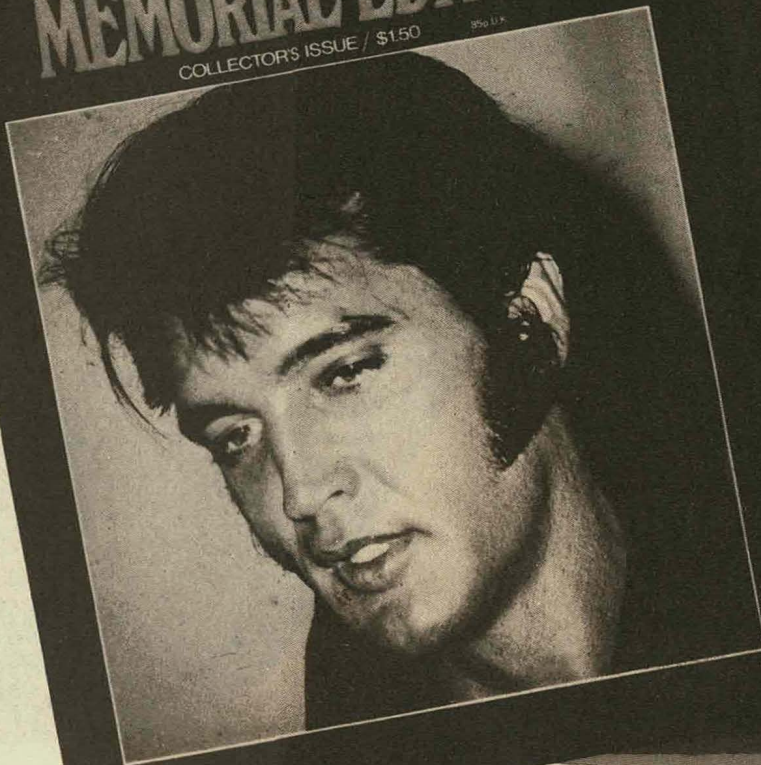
Rita Coolidge and Kris Kristofferson are going back to-tour in Britain in spite of some hostile reviews which, other critics say, were based on someone's personal bias.

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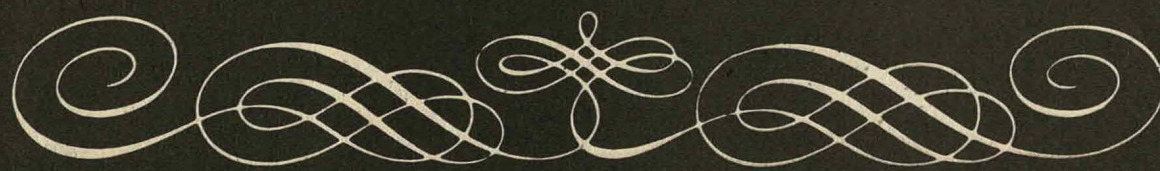
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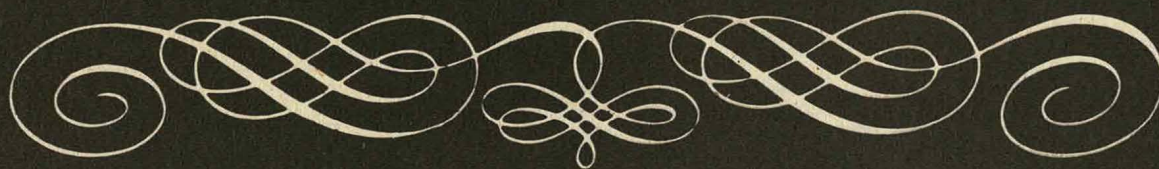
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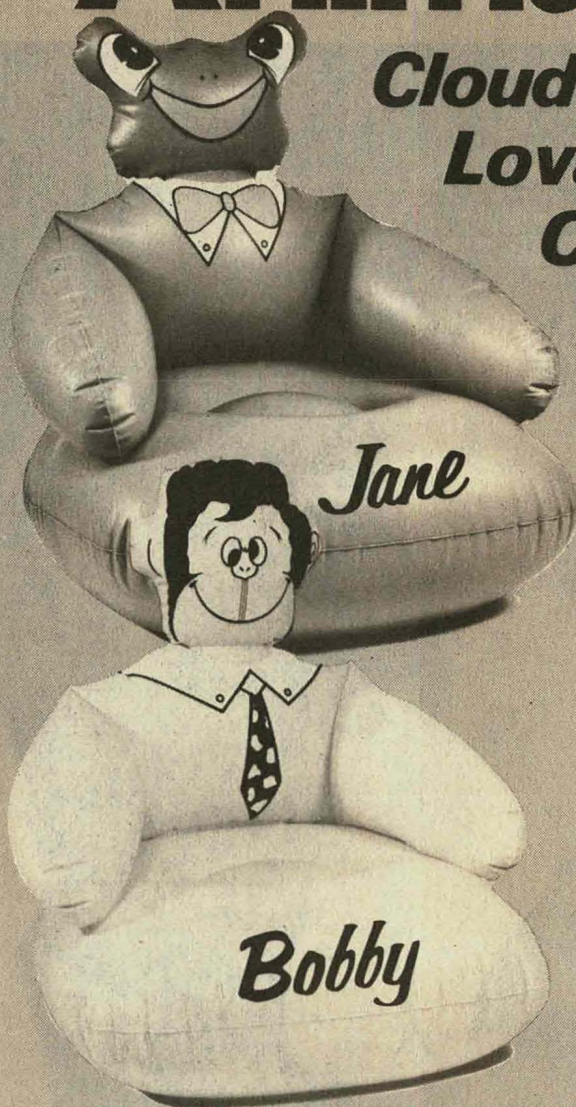
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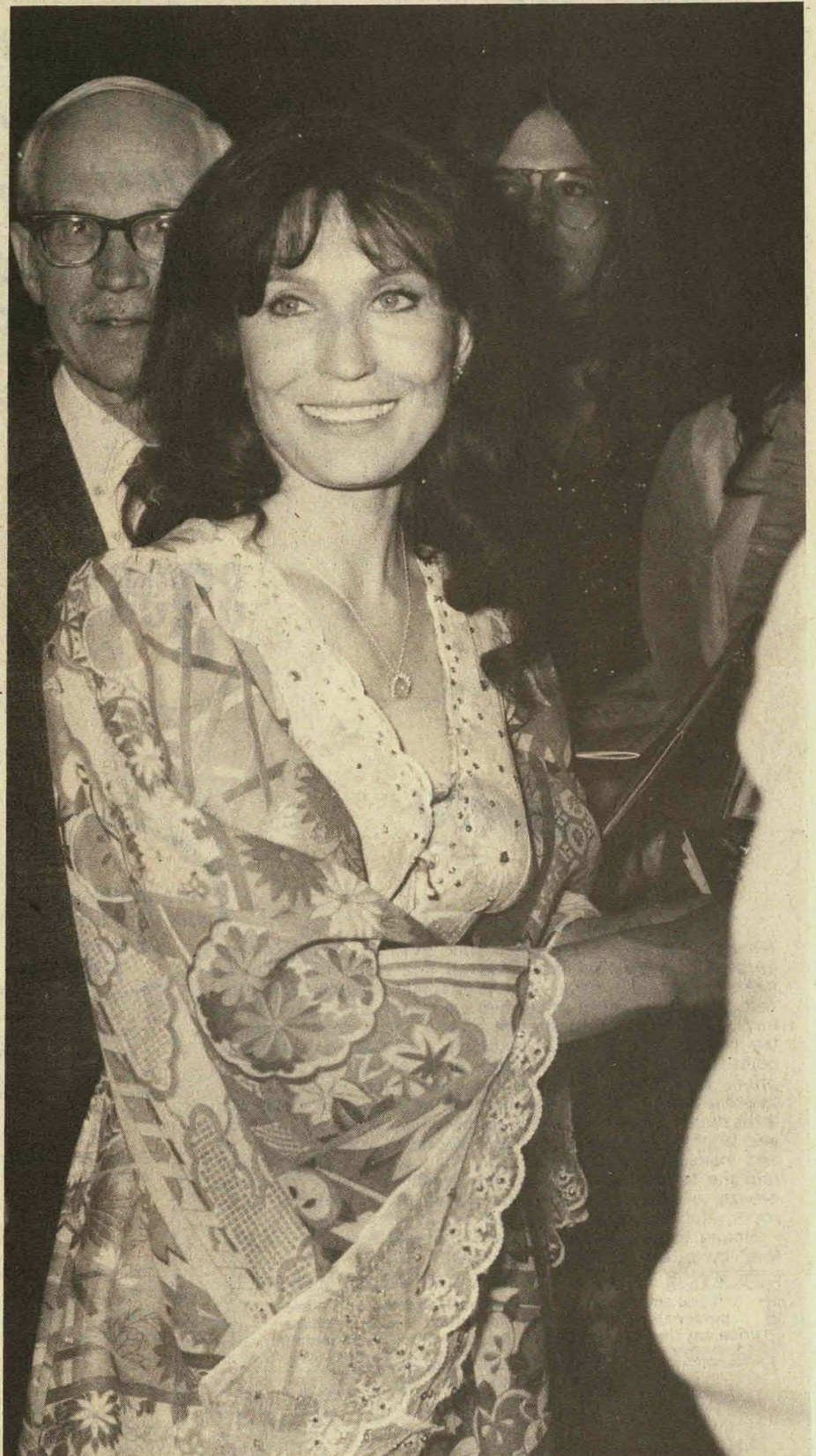
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LORETTA LYNN & Feudin'...Fussin'...

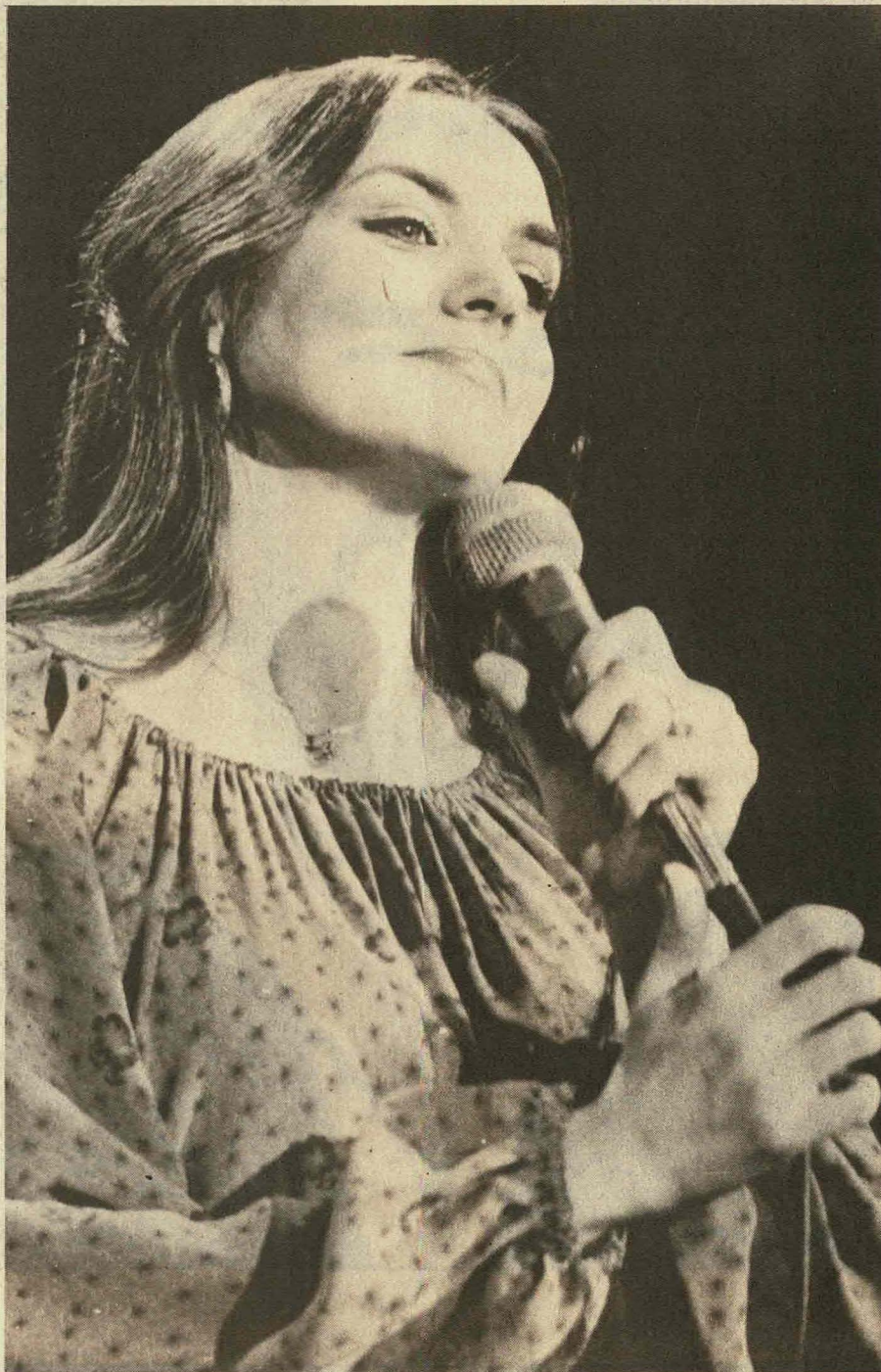
Some people have said it's a wonder they haven't been more "hostile" to one another than the rumors hint. These people say that that sort of attitude would be expected inasmuch as Loretta Lynn undoubtedly made it possible for her kid sister, Crystal Gayle, to become the famous singer she now is. And kid sister, for some reason, seems always to pull back on giving her elder sibling any — or enough — credit for her success. But the sisters themselves insist that if they do have an occasional negative thought about each other, it's only — says Crystal — "natural between sisters; especially those who are in the same business." And "Most folks wouldn't notice family disputes if the family weren't newsworthy." There are those, however, who say that it really isn't a "natural" sibling situation here; not even one where an older sister who has



CRYSTAL GAYLE

Fightin'...

Sisters have a very special relationship. But sometimes the fact that you love your sibling can make it harder to accept the things that have happened between you.



worked her way up and out of the grime of poverty and made it possible for the rest of her kin to have it relatively easy might resent the sudden success of a younger sibling. There are those who say that Loretta's somewhat less than overly-embracing attitude towards Crystal might stem from one or two remarks some unworthy folks made to Loretta about some lingering looks Crystal once got from her husband, Mooney. Loretta denies this. So does Mooney. And so does Crystal. But would Loretta forget what she heard? Then there's Crystal's often-repeated remarks that she intends to be "better" than Loretta. An honest statement from an honest young lady. But, again, is Loretta ready to accept such ambition easily?

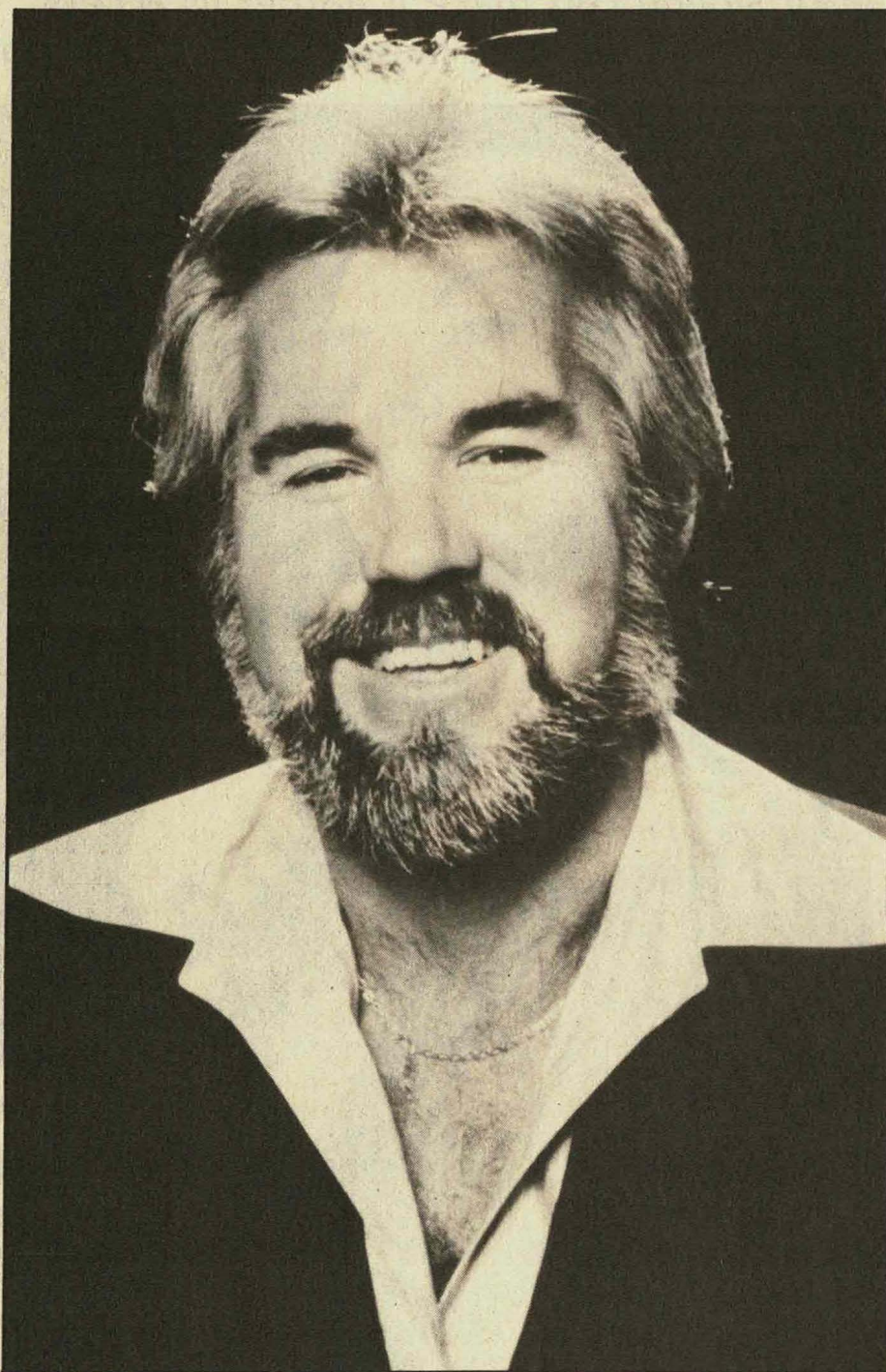
"Whatever you heard," says Loretta, "remember that we're sisters. We're kin. We're one blood." The message is clear. Maybe they do fuss. Maybe they do, occasionally, tiff. But whatever they do, they don't forget — they're sisters. "And where we come from," Loretta says, "that says it all."

KENNY ROGERS:

MAKING MUSIC HELPED ME WANT TO LIVE AGAIN

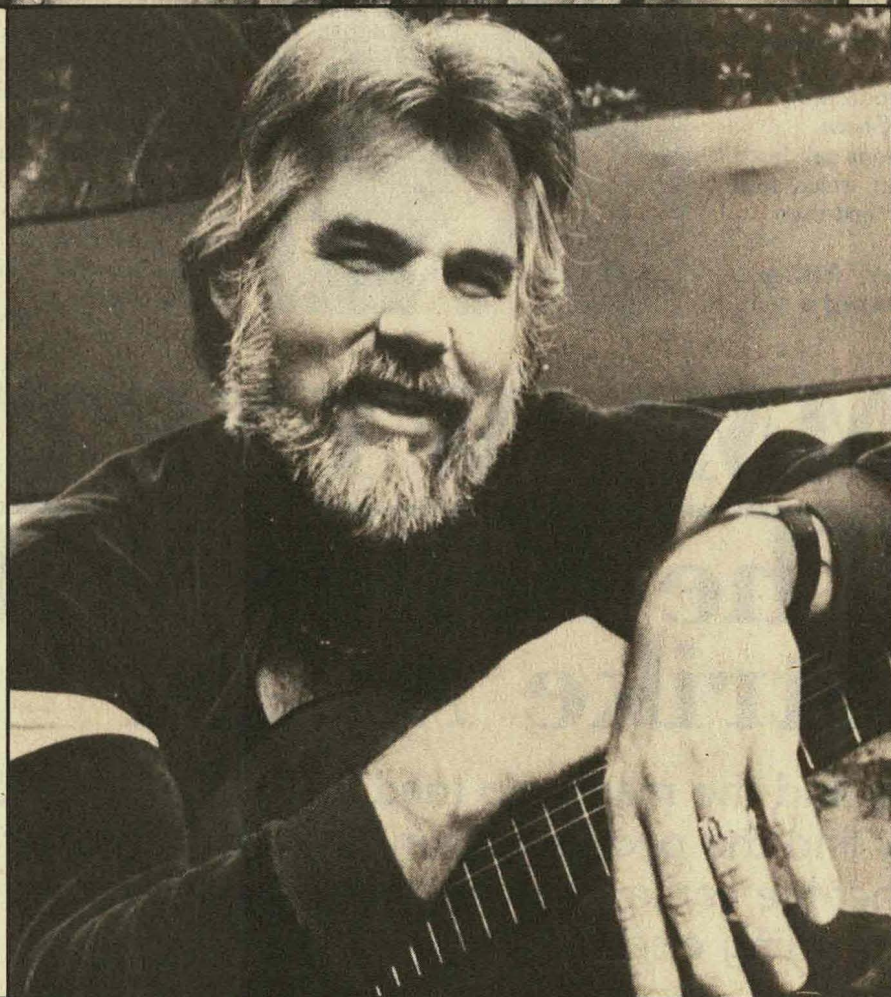
Kenny Rogers was born in Texas and raised to think of the whole country as home. "I was never one of those who believed in setting up barriers between myself and others simply because of geographical backgrounds. It's bad enough when people do it out of racial or religious bigotry. But to separate Americans on the basis of state or local barriers was always, for me, unthinkable." He believed that music was the way to break down barriers and reach people. Kenny rode the crest of each successive "wave" that rolled over the land. Even when he broke away from these groups and became a solo star he seemed to be able to always put his finger on the pulse of the nation and sing the songs it wanted to hear. Then, for a while, he drifted. He seemed to be unable to find himself either professionally or personally. He had marital problems. For a while it seemed as if his health was about to break down. "But then," Kenny said, "I found some sense still left inside of me and told myself that this was stupid; that I had a gift — a musical gift — and that it had always been able to bring happiness or, at least, a pleasant interlude for others. It should do the same for me."

As he pulled his professional life together, his personal life also benefited. He met, wooed and won Marianne Gordon, one of the lovely ladies on TV's Hee-Haw series. His single (United Artists) "Love or Something Like it," was No. 1 for a long while and his album, "Ten Years of Gold" should be going platinum while another lp, "Everytime Two Fools Collide," with Dottie West, may shatter all records for recordings this year. He's also written a book along with Len Eppard called, "Making It with Music" (Harper & Row). But most of all what he's been making with music is a beautiful new life with a beautiful new wife. Kenny Rogers is on his way up again.



Just when Kenny thought life had little more to offer, things happened and he's been singing a happy song ever since.

Among his many friends who turned out for his wedding to Marianne Gordon were, from left: John Davidson, Glenn Campbell, John Denver.



After a long period in "limbo" Kenny Rogers shot back to super-stardom via his hit recording, "Lucille" issued early in 1978.

Perhaps the best way one would describe Tammy Wynette would be to review her songs. Such albums surely reveal a woman in search of happiness, love and the security only one man could provide, with titles as: *Take Me To Your World*, *Stand By Your Man*, *We Sure Can Love Each Other*, *Another Lonely Song*, *You And Me*, *Let's Get Together*, *Let's Build A World Together* and *D-I-V-O-R-C-E*. And so it has been for Tammy as well.

A lifelong series of harrassments, and most recently a kidnap threat to her daughter culminating with the singer's own mysterious abduction she believes are related in some way.

"There was a quiet period for a while but now it's started back up," George Richey, Ms. Wynette's fifth husband, said in describing events leading up to his wife's abduction in October. "We think it's the same people who were behind the earlier things. Too many things are the same."

Richey confirmed reports that Ms. Wynette's 8-year-old daughter, Tamala Georgette (her daughter by third husband George Jones) had been the subject of a kidnapping scare as well.

Prior to Tammy's abduction, Richey's sister-in-law Sheila Richey, received a phone call from an unidentified woman, which said, "Where is Georgette" and then hung up.

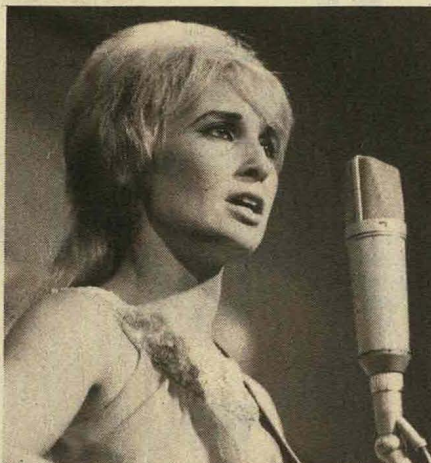
"A few minutes later," Richey went on, "Tammy received a call

from the same voice which said, 'Someone else is going to pick up your kid today.'"

Tamala Georgette, who is a student at Franklin Road Academy, was in school when the calls were made. The school received a similar phone call shortly after those received by Ms. Wynette and Mrs. Richey. "Tammy and I at that point ran down to the school to get her," Richey said.

"They were trying to freak us out and they did. There's no question in my mind that it was related to all the other things that have happened."

Friends who know the singer well say that she has been convinced for a long time that her life is in danger and at one point she actually bought a trained guard dog out of fear she may in fact be harmed. Several signs warning visitors of dangerous dogs can be found dotting the circular drive to her home.



"There have been incidents like her hearing people walking on the roof over her bedroom at night," said a friend. "Then there was one time she came home and found somebody had scrawled an 'X' on the front door of her home; and the time the outdoor burglar alarm signal kept setting off at night to wake her."

John Lentz, who is Ms. Wynette's lawyer, confirmed these occurrences. Lentz said that Ms. Wynette had also received numerous annoying phone calls, though she had changed her unlisted phone number many times. In one case, he said, an intruder broke into her home and scrawled the words "slut" and "bitch" in lipstick on her mirrors.

On top of all these bizarre happenings, Tammy Wynette experienced the most terrifying moments of her life just a few days after the threatening phone calls to kidnap her daughter.

On Wednesday, October 4th, she was abducted by a masked man who waited for her in her yellow Cadillac which she had left unlocked in the parking lot of a shopping center in Nashville. The blond singer said she was assaulted and thrown from her car some 80 miles from Nashville. Her abductor fled with another unidentified man in a late-model blue station wagon. She then ran to the nearby home of Mrs. Junette Young where she was given first-aid and her husband notified of her whereabouts.

(continued on page 64)

TAMMY WYNETTE:

"The Killer Will Strike Again"

Whether they find the man who tried to kill her in October or whether they find the people responsible for those "strange" incidents in her life earlier may not be as important to Tammy as finding something else.

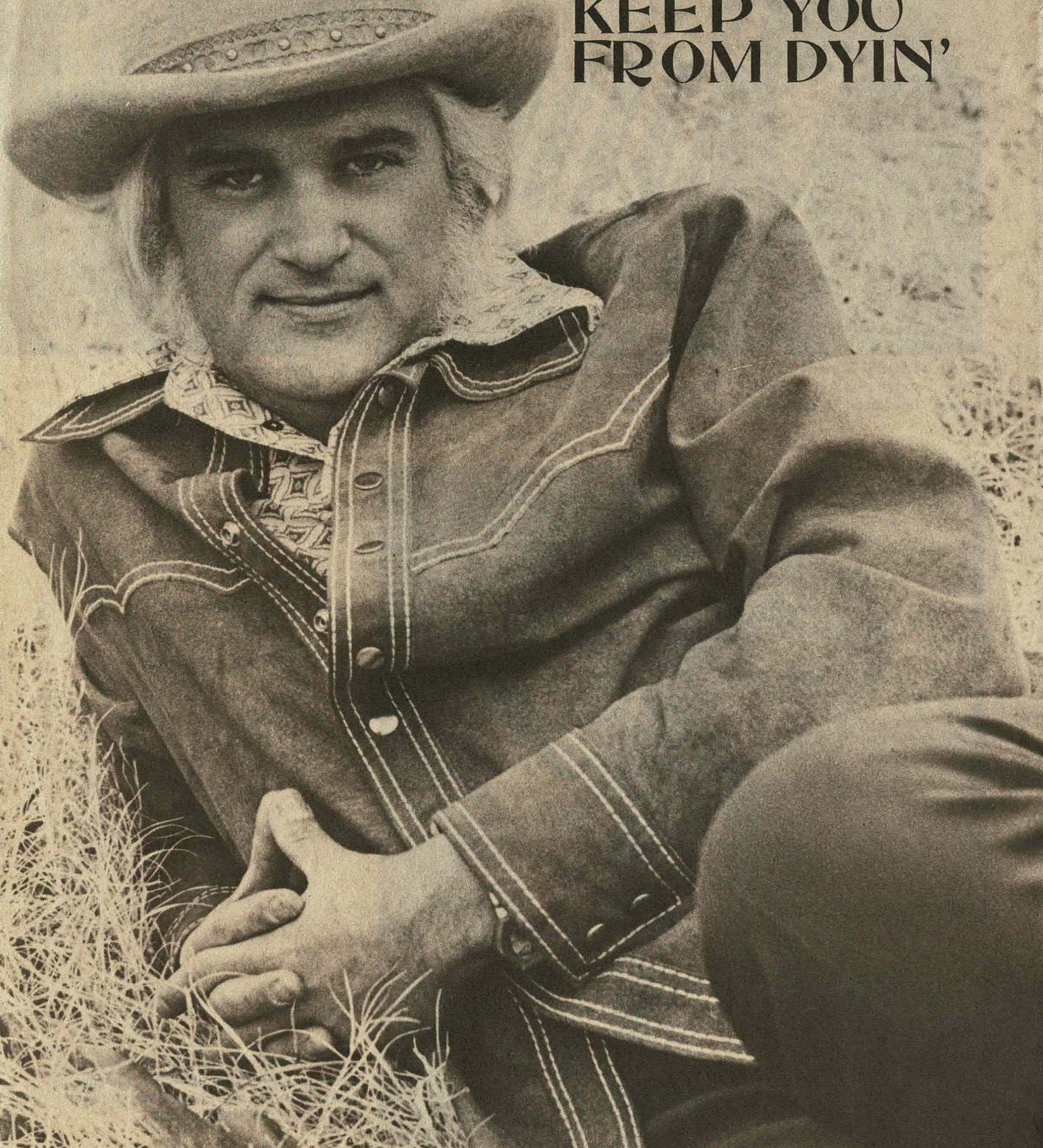


Above. Tammy Wynette talks about her ordeal at the hands of the unknown assailant who threatened to kill her when he abducted her in October. The bruises on her face are a result of the terrible ordeal she suffered. As she spoke, her husband, George Richey, stayed with her during the press conference. (Richey is Tammy's fifth husband.)



Left. Tammy and her former husband, George Jones have remained friendly since their divorce. They're the parents of Tamala Georgette Jones.

**CHARLIE RICH:
CRYIN' DON'T
KEEP YOU
FROM DYIN'**



It took the love of a good woman — like all the songs say — to return Charlie to the land of the living.



Despite almost unbearable difficulties, Margaret Rich has stuck by her man. There were times when she watched Charlie — the “Silver Fox” of country music — try to put on a show while fighting the effects of a long night of

No one promised Charlie Rich the kind of financial and artistic success he’s achieved over the years. He did it all just by hard work and talent. However, he almost lost the most important achievement of all, his happiness as a human being, when he allowed himself to become a victim of “old debbil” drink. There were times when he was scratching at the very bottom rung of the ladder hoping for some way to get a grip on life again.

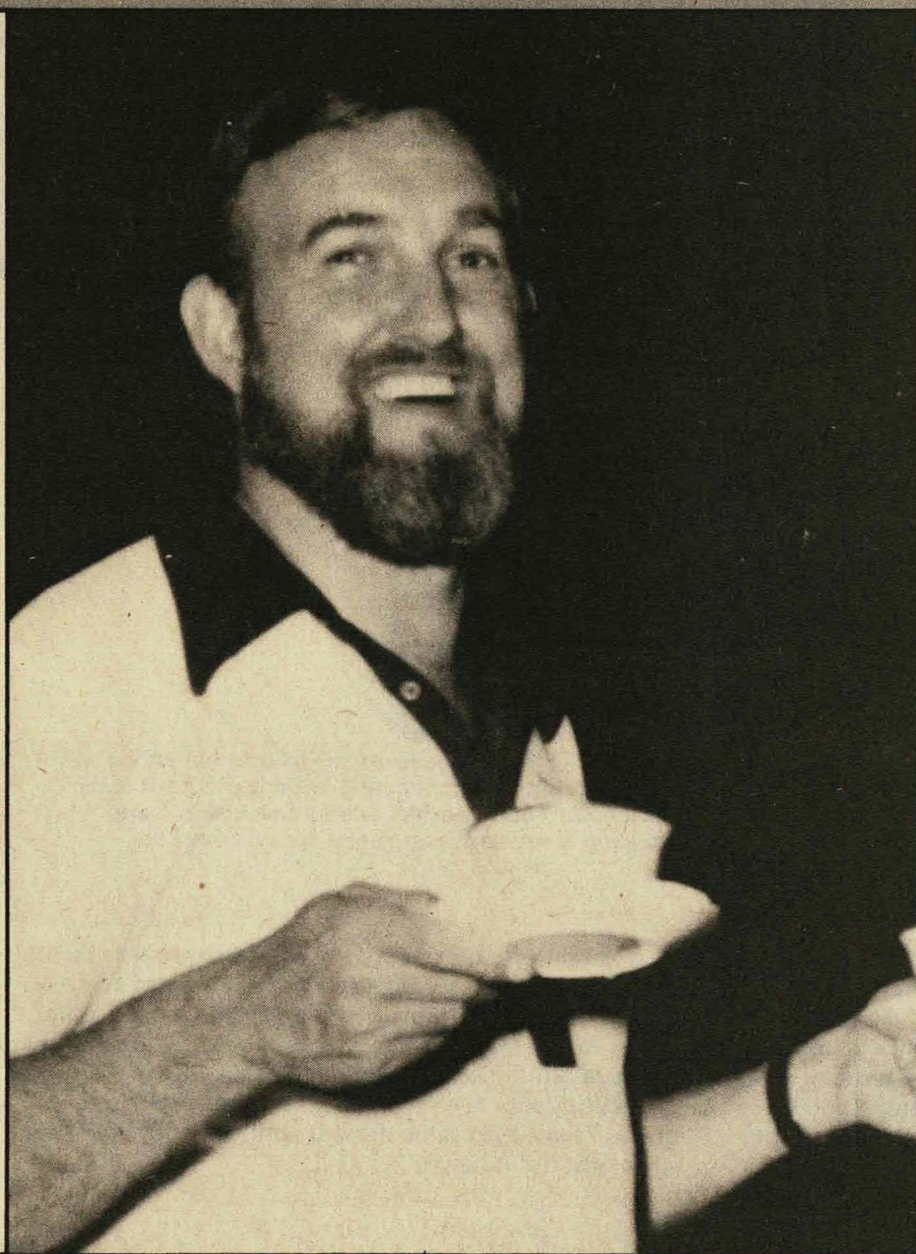


drinking. Often, she believes, it was only her strong will that kept him from collapsing out there in front of the audiences. Today the Riches and their children are enjoying a renewed, happy and secure family life.

And at all times his devoted wife, Margaret, was there to pull at him, tug at him, practically carry him over his latest self-imposed obstacle. There was even a point when Margaret used “shock treatment,” threatening to leave him unless he changed. Finally, he made one last effort and the devils in him were exorcised for good. “I couldn’t have done it without Margaret,” he says. But did it he did

Ralph Emery: He Says It All

Emery bored? Never. When it comes to making observations on the country and western music scene, few folks have the capacity to get right behind the obvious as Ralph Emery does.



To some he's more well-known than any songwriter or for that matter any singer in the country music field today. For a good part of his adult life he's lived, worked and breathed music so much that he says, "Unfortunately, it has now become very difficult for me to listen to music for pure pleasure. I guess that's a terrible comment on my life." But it does show his complete involvement in the world of country music and what a profound contribution he has given as well.

The man, of course, is Ralph Emery, perhaps better known to country music industry bigwigs and fans alike as the best deejay Nashville has ever encountered.

Our interview began over coffee in the dining area of a prominent motel located near the hub of the music industry. After several brief interruptions from fans and record execs, who came by our table, it was apparent that another locale would soon figure into the course of events. Emery, who is a very amiable man of 45, suggested his own office, not too far from Music Row, to which I replied, "Let's go."

Today, Emery is host of the nationally-syndicated TV show, *Pop Goes The Country*; his own local TV show which airs at 6 A.M. and a syndicated radio show with 270 markets and still growing around the nation. Not bad for a guy who was born in McEwen, Tennessee, some sixty miles west of Nashville.

As a child, Emery spent most of his summers with his grandparents in the Nashville area, and later went to school there. His grandfather was a big country fan and Emery recalls seeing Pee Wee King the first time he went to the Grand Ole Opry in 1942.

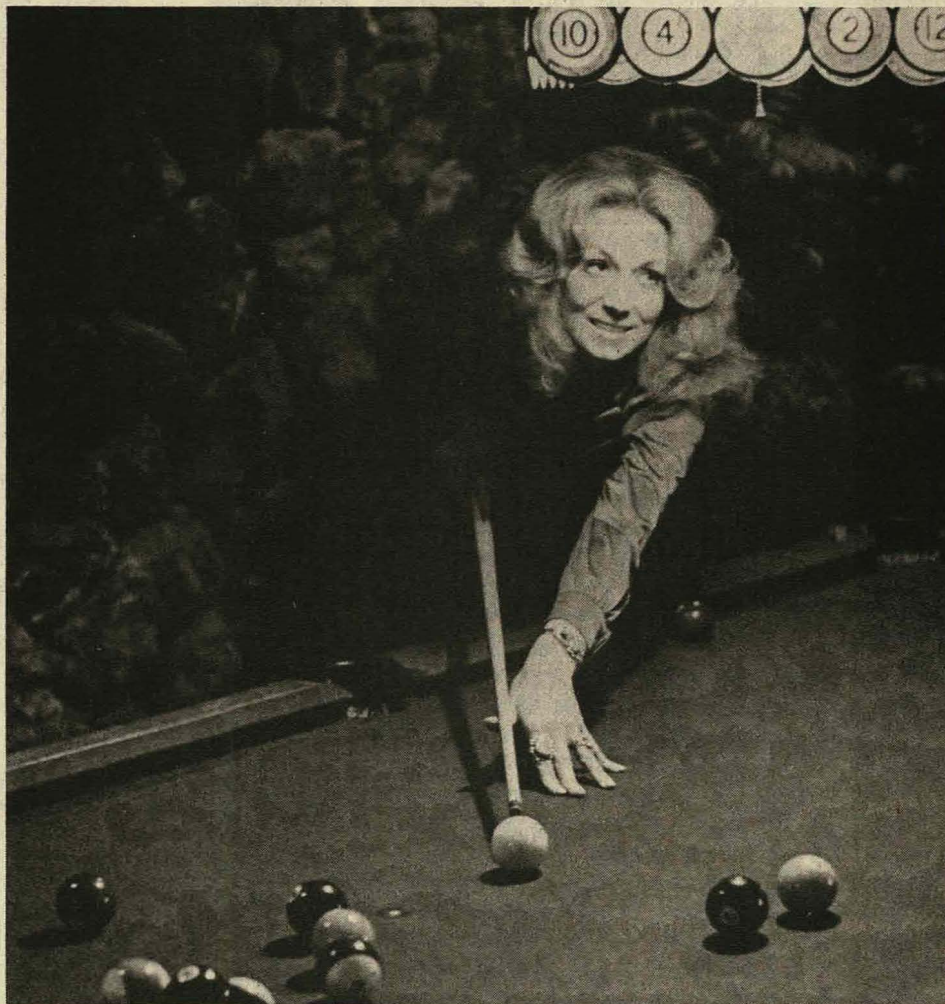
As it happened, Emery found he could not afford to go on to college so instead enrolled in broadcasting school soon finding himself lagging in tuition payments. After his brief adventure with school he got himself a job full time at a radio station in nearby Paris, Tennessee. The year was 1951.

Six years later, he was on the staff at WSM, the flagship station for country music. He arrived in time, too, to see it overwhelmed by Elvis and a whole musical tidal wave called rock and roll. And

(continued on page 59)

DOTTIE WEST: RACKIN' UP THE REWARDS NOW.

Dottie's done it all. She's worked hard to get to where she is. From tiny tank towns to the stage of the Grand Ole Opry.



The important thing to keep in mind about Dottie West is that the lady never gave up. Although she rarely talks about her personal struggles to make it in a world then (and still) largely dominated by men when she started out, the fact remains that for nearly a decade Dottie was to know one disappointment after another. There were times when she was on the brink of a breakthrough; a moment that would carry her from Nashville's stages to center stage of the world. But so many times she was pulled back before she could cross that line. It wasn't that Dottie didn't appreciate being a Nashville star. "That was my greatest dream," she said, "and remains my most important achievement." But Dottie felt that her songs should have a wider audience; that the message she carried from Nashville would be received outside. And she was right. She kept on. But she refused to compromise the purity of her music — the singular uniqueness of her style. She wanted to break out into new areas, but not as a hybrid carrying a bit of this and a bit of that. Eventually, of course, her determination and talent won her the acclaim she deserves.

For years Nashville rejected Ronnie Milsap's ideas about country music. He was considered too "R&B" oriented. In 1974, however, he was recognized as one of "country's own" when he, along with Olivia Newton-John, left and Charlie Rich, right, was a Country Music Association Awards winner.

Some have even gone as far as to describe Ronnie Milsap as the *Elton John* of country music, with all the flash and outrageous antics on stage. "I like surprises," Milsap explains. "To me, everything I do feels normal. I like to wear blue jeans, sure, but when people come to see a performer, they shouldn't see the same guy they would meet on the street," he continues. "When it comes time to think about a really sharp tux, I'll call up my tailor and tell him the colors I want."

Sound incredible? "I don't guess that having never seen something that I could honestly tell you that I'd know what blue is or what green is," Milsap says. "However, I have some idea of the amount of energies colors give off. Certain ones are fiery, others are peaceful, I like a lot of bright colors — oranges, reds, purples."

Ronnie Milsap was born with congenital glaucoma. At the age of one year he was the "discard" of a broken home. He went to live with his grandparents in rural North Carolina, and when he was 6 was enrolled in the State School for the Blind at Raleigh — where he encountered running water and indoor plumbing for the very first time. And music!

The teachers there allowed Milsap to form his own rock group along with three other blind boys from the school. In remembering those days, Milsap says: "It was four blind boys and we bumped into a lot of walls together!"



Among his country hits are, *Don't Tell Me How the Story Ends*, *Legend in My Time*, *Daydreams About Night Things*, *Stand By My Woman Man* and most recently, he hit the charts with *Only One Love in My Life*. Added to all this is the fact that in 1974, after only two years in the country music arena, he was named Male Vocalist of the Year by the Country Music Assoc. He was also awarded a Grammy as the Top Male Country Performer. And last year, of course, he was honored with the prestigious Entertainer of the Year and was nominated again this year.

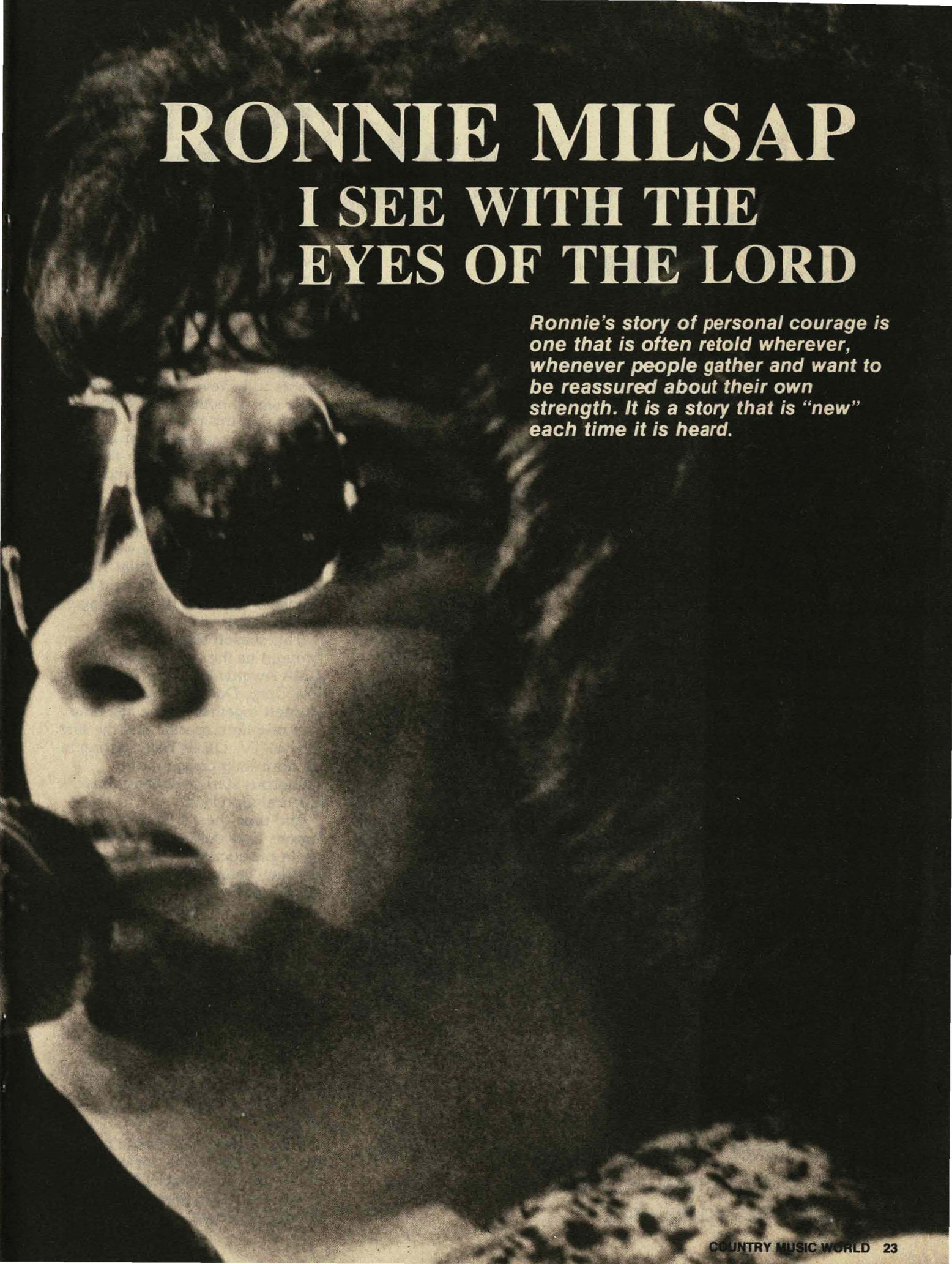
Milsap's success as a country singer came suddenly, but certainly not easily. "It's like anything else," he confesses. "it will happen if you make it happen. There might be a bit of luck to it, but I think you make

your own luck. If a door doesn't open or if something goes wrong or if you don't get a break... you still got to be positive."

Whatever direction his music takes, don't listen for too many sad tunes, either.

"Oh, I'll do a good cheating song if somebody else writes it. Or I might provide the music. But I don't write sad songs. I'm happy in my work and happy in my marriage. It's hard to see past trying to excel."

PATRICIA CANOLE



RONNIE MILSAP

I SEE WITH THE EYES OF THE LORD

Ronnie's story of personal courage is one that is often retold wherever, whenever people gather and want to be reassured about their own strength. It is a story that is "new" each time it is heard.

COUNTRY GOES HOLLYWOOD

The veteran actor, George Burns, played the title role in the film, "Oh, God!" He personally asked for country singer John Denver to play the young supermarket clerk who is chosen by "God" to spread the message from on high. This was Denver's first move into movies but, certainly, not his last.



Lots of country stars are finding the silver screen a great place to mine gold. And some "dudes" (like Robert Redford!!!) are finding the country scene a place to be seen and heard as well.

The "Singing Cowboy" was a phenomenon of the movies that evolved in the late 1930s and early 1940s. Gene Autry is acknowledged to be the first one to bring the western scene to the screen in terms of both story and music. He was followed by Roy Rogers. And, as you will see in the wants to believe Roy and Dale ever were anything but King and photos on this page, Roy and his wife Dale Evans were not always western stars during their film careers. But, of course, who really Queen of the Cowboys?

Now that country music has taken the right turn on the road and is a mainstay in the world of music, it's only natural that TV, movies, — the electronic and film media — jump on the bandwagon of success as well.

This season alone, TV producers brought us the very prestigious CMA Awards live from The Grand Ole Opry, Dolly Parton and Carol Burnett together for the first time in a one-hour special, and the first lady of TV, Lucille Ball, starring in an hour-long comedy with numerous stars of country music taped at Opryland.

And then there's Hollywood. Dozens of country-oriented movies are in production and within the next few years country music fans will be seeing a lot more of their favorites on the silver screen as more and more of the singers show an avid interest in developing their acting careers.

First and foremost on the list of country movies is *Coal Miner's Daughter*, based on the life of Loretta Lynn. Production on this screen version will take place in Nashville and Kentucky and will star Sissy Spacek as Loretta and Harrison Ford as her husband Mooney.

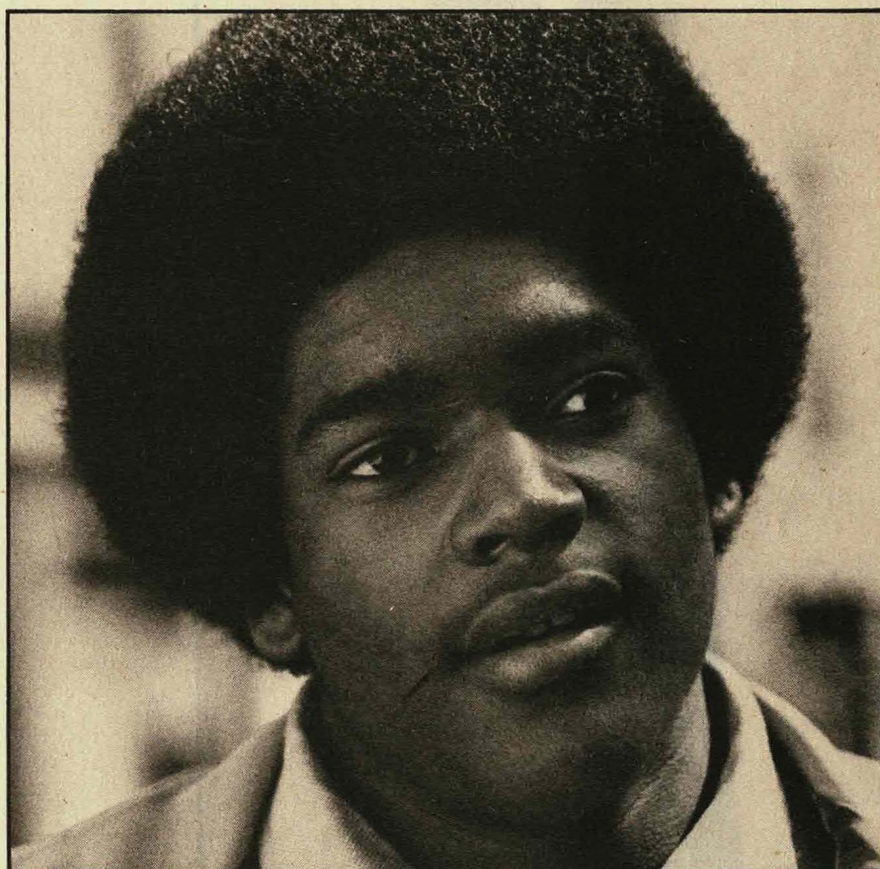
Willie Nelson has several movie projects in the works, including his life story — a Universal film based on his top-selling album, *Red-Headed Stranger*, and a part in the



Tanya Tucker steps up to the microphone for a scene in her first movie, "Amateur Night," which she made for Universal-Television. With her are the other principal stars, Henry Gibson, left of photo and Dennis Quaid.

movie entitled, *The Songwriter* (which also stars good friends Waylon Jennings and Mary Kay Place). Willie does not stop there however. He's also involved in the planned film of the best-seller *Limo* — a social satire created from life around Texas — and will most likely emerge as the star of a musical-documentary filmed this coming summer at the first annual Texas World Music Festival. There are indications that this festival may become the *Woodstock* of the country world.

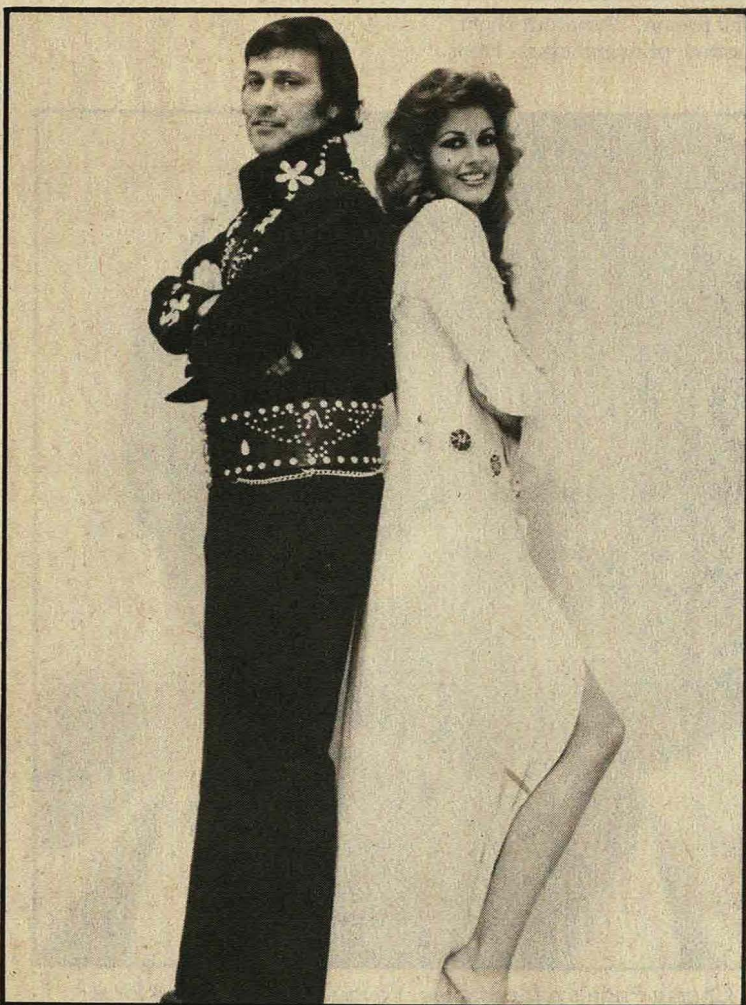
Now with Nelson and Jennings being hot movie properties, Robert Redford has already invited them to be in his movie, *The Electric Horseman*, already in production. Redford, by the way, stars as a rodeo man who becomes the spokesman for a breakfast cereal and is teamed with a champion racehorse — which takes over his promotional role. Willie, however, when asked to comment explained this way: "As far as the strict dramatic thing is concerned, that may not be for me. I'd just rather play by guitar." In addition to *Electric Horseman*, Redford also plans to star in a movie based on



This young man is Charlie Pride's pride and joy. Young Dion Pride is set for a starring role in a major motion picture and audiences will be hearing his voice on the soundtrack of "The Double McGuffin."



Gary Busey (here with his wife) parlayed a background as a drummer, singer, composer into several major movie roles. But the one that shot him straight to stardom was his portrayal of the late Texas-born singer/composer, Buddy Holly.



Earl Owensby and Ginger Alden will appear in the upcoming flick, "Living Legend." Ginger, once Elvis Presley's "friend," denies the movie is based on the life of the late singer.

the life of Wild West bounty hunter Tom Horn. He also plans to be in and around Nashville vicinity filming *A Place To Come To*, a story about a poor Southerner who comes to the big city in search of an identity. The film is based on the novel by Robert Penn Warren.

Clint Eastwood has wrapped up production on *Every Which Way But Loose*, a Western-based film in which he runs off with a country singer. Eddie Rabbitt, who reportedly is one of Eastwood's favorite singers, sings the title tune written by Kenny O'Dell, a veteran Nashville songwriter. Charlie Rich and Mel Tillis will also make cameo appearances in the film.

Everyone's favorite Tex-Mex singer, Freddy Fender, plans to star in a self-written movie in the near future; he's already appeared as Pancho Villa with Ronee Blakely in *She Came To The Valley*.

In North Carolina, Earl Owensby is producing and starring in *The Living Legend*, a movie he is quick to point out is *not* the Elvis Presley story although, we might add — it does co-star Elvis' fiancée, Ginger Alden, as the girlfriend of a poor country singer who rises to the top.

Not only are movie executives interested in developing country films, they are after the country stars for a variety of projects.

BONUS: GENE AUTRY & ROY ROGERS



Gene Autry is now a millionaire businessman, rancher, baseball team owner. And it all started with a horse, a guitar, and several songs per movie!

Crystal Gayle has been inundated with offers as has Linda Ronstadt (who had a concert sequence in *FM*) with offers to do the film version of *Promises, Promises*.

One star who is more than anxious to pursue an acting career is Dolly Parton. She's landed a three-picture deal with Twentieth-Century Fox and claims one film will be her life story.

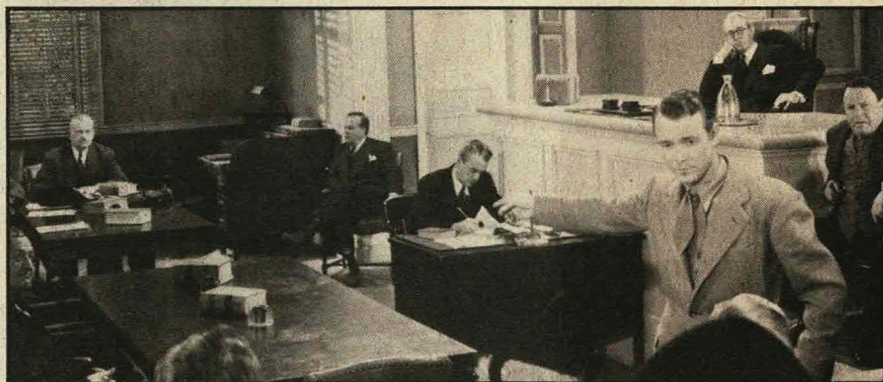
Tanya Tucker has been slated to make her acting debut as a novice singer in the NBC made-for-TV movie *The Amateur Night*. Eddie Rabbitt is up for a *Love Boat* sequence and a starring role in a major picture *The Fabricator*. And veteran-songwriter Mickey Newbury is writing the soundtrack and playing a marshall in the Western, *Ned Christie*.

True, Westerns are finally making a comeback and along with the trend, country music stars to perform in them. As one record executive recently said: "The public loves westerns and is hungry for heroes who are clearly the good guys and the bad guys...and who better to play those parts than the folks who sing the songs all day long."

by PATRICIA CANOLE



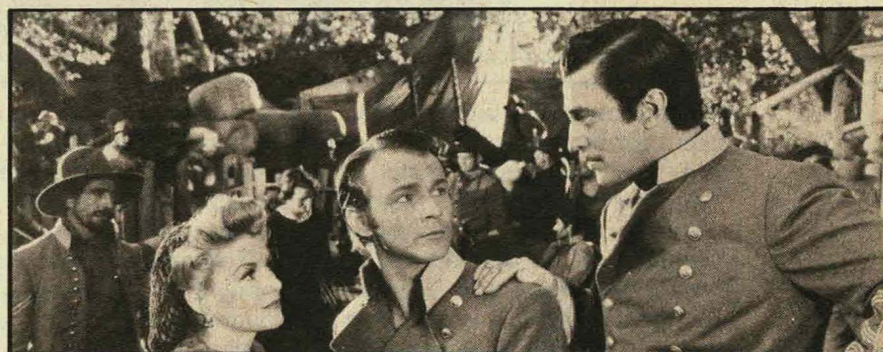
In 1948, Ms. Dale Evans (who became the Queen of the Cowgirls after she married Roy Rogers) was a charming ingenue—not a western film star. She's flanked by Donald Barry, left and Tom Brown. Film is "Skippy McGee."



Roy Rogers (here in a 1944 film) also began his career in non-western films. He was being groomed as a romantic lead, a la Jimmy Stewart. (Roy's real name is Leonard Slye. He's part American Indian.)



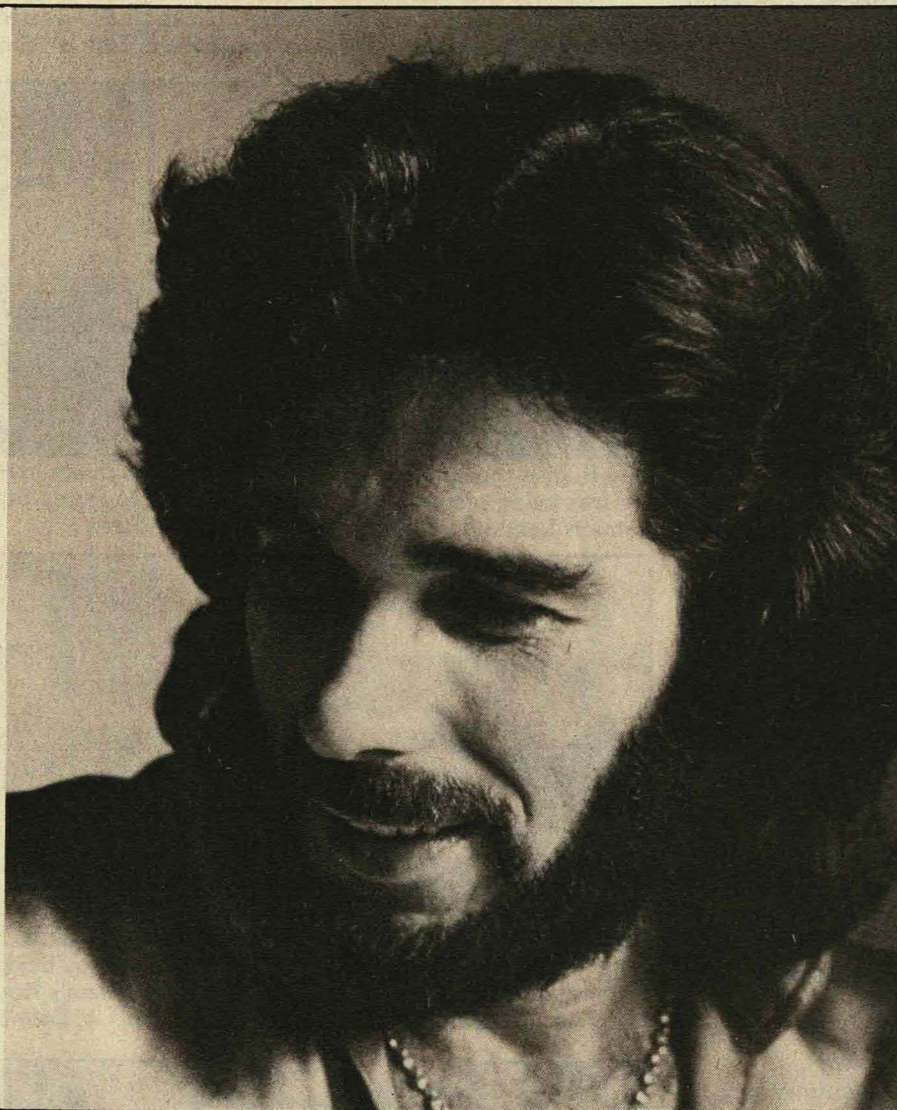
Gene Autry's success as a singing cowboy led to Roy being signed to similar films when Gene joined the Air Force in WWII. Here's Roy with Bob Dolan, left, Gabby Hayes and a new "girl western star" — Dale Evans.



A photo for Roy Rogers fans to treasure. This is a scene from "Dark Command" starring Claire Trevor and Walter Pidgeon. A very young Roy (who looks like a young Steve McQueen) is in the center.

EDDIE RABBITT: DOING IT THE WAY BUNNIES DO...

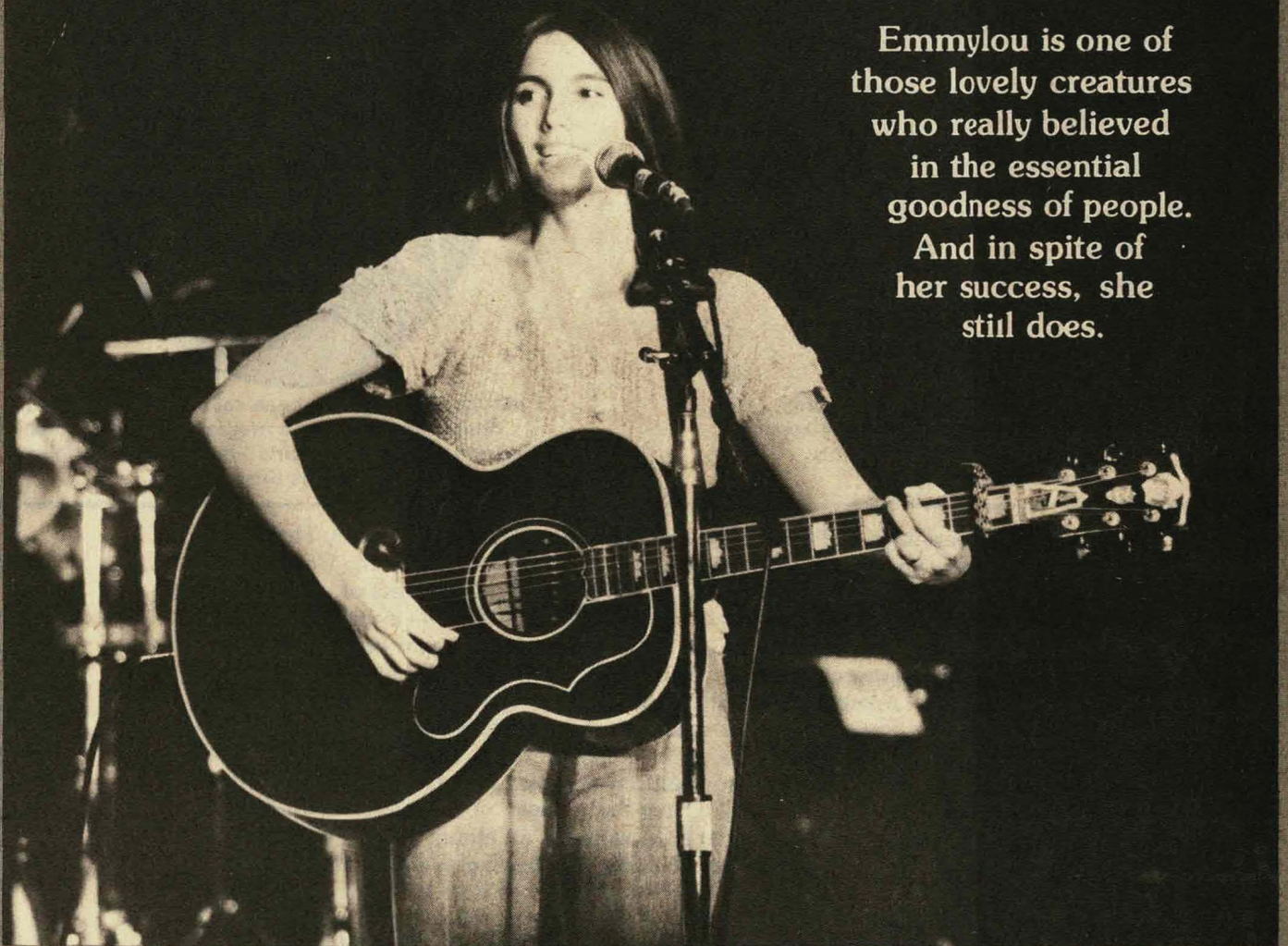
Ever since the New Jersey-born singer hit the big time in country music he's discovered that success builds upon success . . .



He came out of the wilds of New Jersey; a handsome young man with a great voice and a talent for turning listeners into raving admirers. "But though I came out of the East," he said, "I always wanted to sing country music and went to Nashville and made a record and the rest is history." And what a history it has become. Quick, like a bunny, he reproduced his success story several times with each new LP that came out with the Elektra label. He opened one of Olivia Newton-John's shows in Nevada and won new fans for his singing and his style. And now, if all the whispers coming out of Hollywood are right, Eddie may wind up on the silver screen playing — what else? a country boy. It's a role that will have him singing but also (wooooooeeee!) doing some real hot romantic love scenes. Maybe one day soon some enterprising producer will sign him up for the first country western "nude scene" flick — HARE? Meanwhile, enjoy all the variations of Eddie Rabbitt's remarkably facile voice on his newest album for Elektra called VARIATIONS.

EMMYLOU HARRIS: What A Nice Girl Has To Do To Make It!

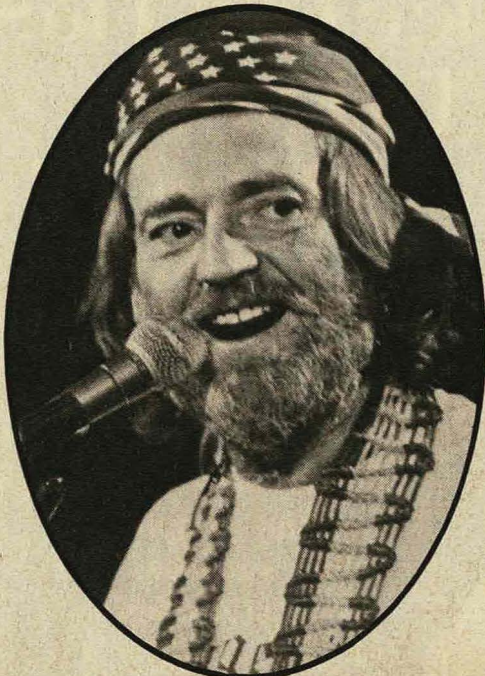
Emmylou is one of those lovely creatures who really believed in the essential goodness of people. And in spite of her success, she still does.



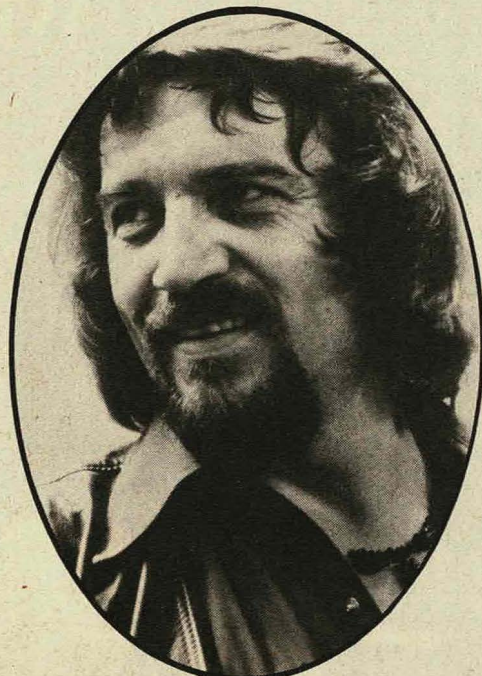
Having a record in the very top of the charts — on the country side of the ledger — should make a gal feel extra special. And, it sure does make Emmylou Harris feel extra special knowing that all the years of hard work have paid off. But there's more to the way Ms. Harris feels than simply gratified that her career is taking wing. "I feel," she said, "as if I've proved something to myself beyond my ability to succeed. I've proved," she went on, "that I don't have to ever worry about my changing either to become a success or because of success." Emmylou's LP, *Quarter Moon in A Ten Cent Town* (Warner) has been on the top side of the best-sellers lists for months and it's expected to spin off a continuing number of hit singles. Emmylou's concert appearances are booked well into the future and guarantee a sell-out house wherever she goes. But the most important thing

about all of this — "at least as far as my personal life is concerned," she said — is that she has never had to compromise either a personal or a professional principle. "I can't believe that anyone can feel right about stepping on someone else to get anywhere. I can't believe anything is worth that." However, Emmylou is well aware of the fact that these things do happen. She nodded. "But it will never be something I will do." Professionally, she is also zealous about keeping her "promises." "I am always ready to listen to advice and to grow as an artist. But I want to always be sure to be true to my own talents — to my own style — to my own gifts as I grow. I never want to copy anyone." "She believes that if Emmylou Harris can't 'sell' herself as an artist, any imitation she does of anyone else will surely, also, be unsalable. "People don't like copies," she said.

Willie Nelson & Waylon Jennings Country's Real "ODD COUPLE"



Willie Nelson may have begun as a "country singer" but he soon added fans from every area of the U.S.A. who were attracted by his "unconventional" style.

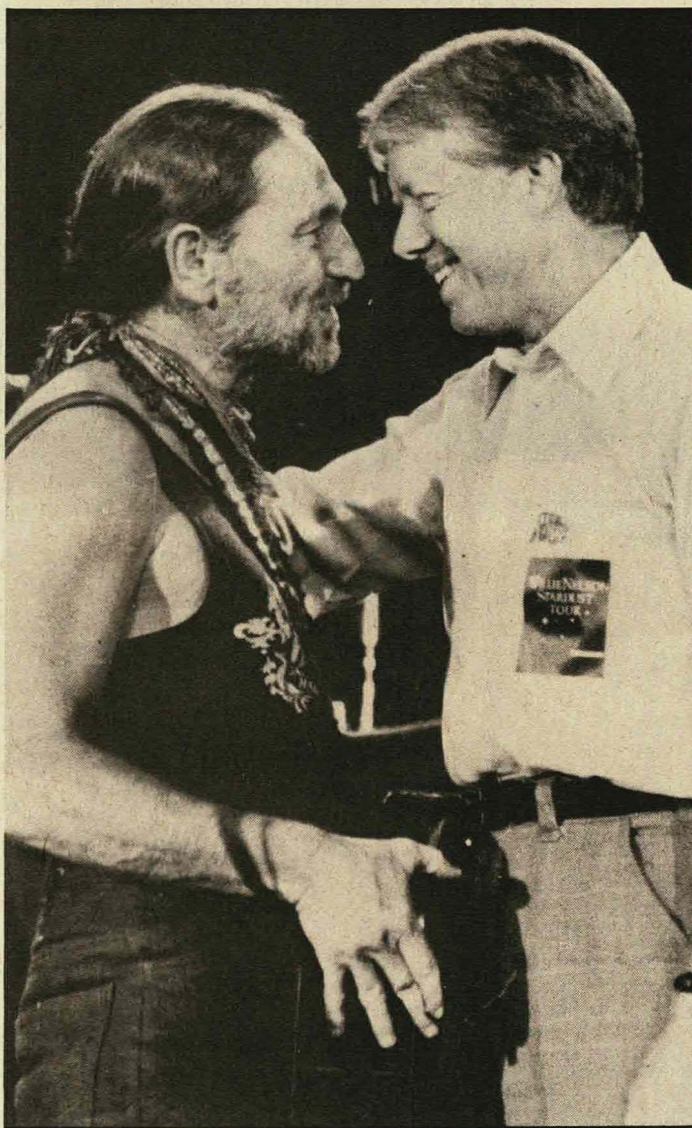


Waylon Jennings has been called "The Bogart of Country Music" by one magazine and "the best country singer in the world" by actor/singer/fellow Texan Kris Kristofferson.

Waylon Jennings might have passed into legend along with Buddy Holly had he not been "bumped" off the plane that carried Buddy, The Big Bopper, and other great talents to their deaths in 1959. The awesomeness of what might have happened to him never left Jennings. It's still there — in his music — and, often, in his attitudes towards life. Although he has become one of the most successful country and western artists of our time, he is a man who remains very much a low-profile figure in a glittering, spotlight drenched world. Sometimes he comes out of those shadows; sometimes he joins another "non-conformist" artist, Willie Nelson, for a concert or on an LP — such as "The Outlaws" — (RCA) which also featured his wife, Jessi Colter. And when the two of them, Waylon and Willie, spin their magic, no one remains unaffected by the experience. Most recently RCA released an album called "Waylon and Willie." Jennings' dark voice and Nelson's unmistakable vocalizations caught the imagination of record buyers as few other discs ever had. But, once again, both men showed the non-conventional sides of their natures when they refused to follow up the release of the LP with a long series of personal appearances, something other artists would have given anything to do. Waylon felt he wanted to step back into his private world to think through the next step in his life. Willie, who, as a very active "partner" in the LP and the success it generated, may well have lost momentum through Waylon's decision not to enlarge their touring itinerary, respected his friend's decision. "We all have our own space," he said. "I would never invade his. He would never invade mine." Several months ago Willie Nelson went to the White House to entertain at a concert for President and Mrs. Carter and their guests. During an intermission Jimmy Carter told Willie of his plans to bring the leaders of Israel and Egypt together with the aim of setting up a peace conference. Willie, who had done his share of singing protest songs during the Viet Nam war dedicated his songs to that sacred goal; peace in the mideast. After the concert, Willie received a standing ovation which he accepted with genuine good humor. However he was later heard telling a friend — "It was a great experience but I wish Waylon were here to share it with me." Maybe next time, Willie.

Maybe . . .

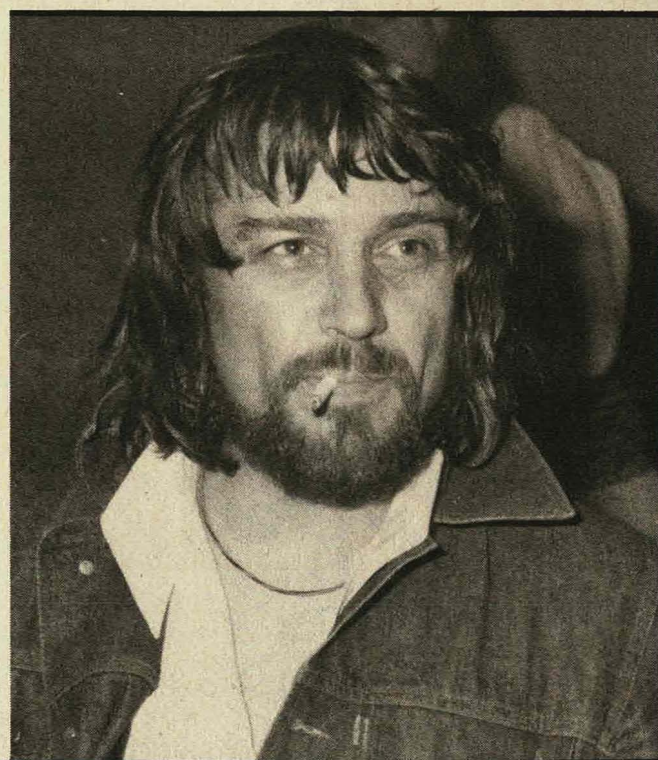
Sometimes they sing together.
Sometimes they don't.
But what they do all the time is make good music —
together or apart!



Willie Nelson may well have been one of the first people outside the government to hear of President Jimmy Carter's plan for the "summit" meeting between Prime Minister Begin and President Anwar Sadat to effect a mideast settlement.



Above. Willie Nelson's way of dressing was what first inspired a non-country group of fans to follow him. He's a sort of Bohemian/hippie/rebel. Below. While it's difficult to get Waylon Jennings out for just about any function, he never misses a benefit for Hollywood's "Actors & Others for Animals."





DOLLY PARTON

“IF I’D LISTENED TO A MAN I’D STILL BE WASHING DIAPERS”

Dolly Parton came out of a family that stressed — as she put it — “lots of lovin’.” And to prove it, there were lots of kids born to momma and pappa. Lots of kids. “Only sometimes, when I was growin’ up, I kind of got to thinkin’ that, maybe, they were my kids. I was takin’ care of so many of them.”

In spite of her close attachment to her siblings, Dolly Parton was determined to find a life of her own. “I knew I could sing,” she said, “and I thought that maybe once I left the town I came from and headed for Nashville, I’d find someone who agreed with me.”

She set out for Nashville while in her teens and, sure enough, she met someone who agreed that she had the voice — and the looks — to be a big star. She worked with that someone — Porter Wagoner — for several years. And even when she married, she kept up her relationship — “strictly professional, you hear?” — with Wagoner. Later she broke with him when she felt she wanted to broaden (no pun intended) her appeal. It’s been a successful experiment, her moving from strictly country to country and pop

(And some say it’ll be more pop since she decided to add a New York City apartment to her Nashville domicile.) “I’ll spend six months in one city and six in another and Lord knows how many anywhere else I’ll be singing in.”

She says she’s a happy wife. Her husband, however, stays well in the background. “Look,” she points out, “I have the kind of life I want. Sure, other people have said I should have retired and had kids. Or had kids and kept working. But I don’t listen to anyone if I don’t agree. Especially a man. What can a man tell a woman about her life? Look, if I’d listened to a man I’d still be washing diapers. If not for my kid brothers and sisters, then for my own kids. I’m not saying there isn’t a place for that. But after years of doing it, I wanted something else.”

Dolly Parton has the gift of music. She has the gift to charm her audiences. There’s a big new career ahead of her if she wants it; movies. And chances are by the time this magazine is one year old, Darlin’ Dolly will be starring in her first major movie. Want to bet on it?



Dolly Parton brightened the scene for hundreds of New Yorkers when she appeared at City Hall last summer and gave the admiring throng a sample of what they'd hear in the night club she was to open in. She loved the reception in the Big Apple so much she bought herself a N.Y. apartment.

Dolly often said that if she had her life to live all over again — "I would have taken more music lessons. Sure, I know there's nothing that can beat natural talent. But talent is a lot like a diamond. If you polish it it really becomes something of value." Dolly has studied voice — not to change the quality of her gift but to learn how to best preserve it against abuse.



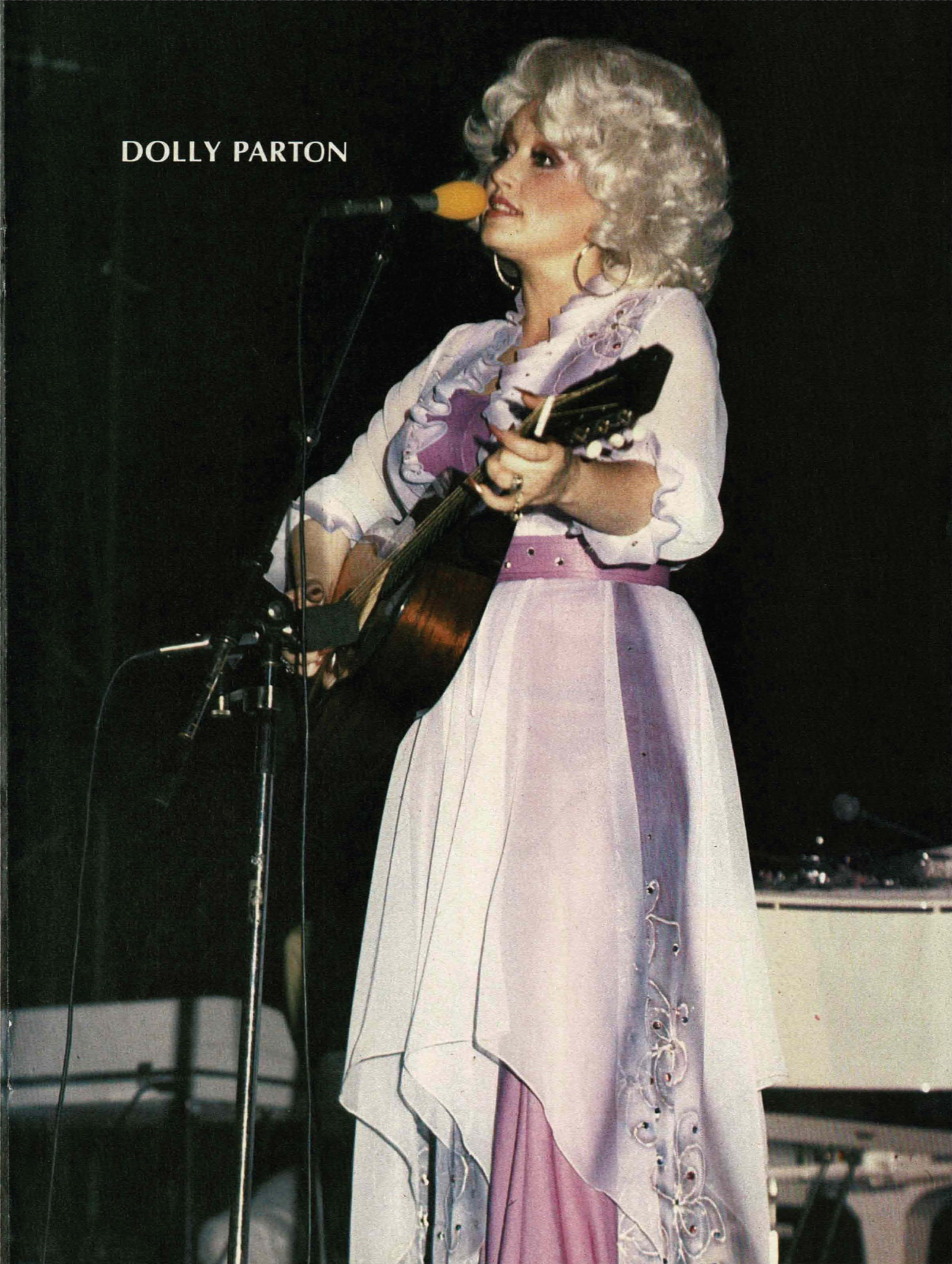
Dolly often pokes fun at her own rounded proportions. At one show she nearly tripped on something on the stage and was falling forward. Her quip: "Whoops . . . I'm a little top-heavy, you know, and have to watch it."



Porter Wagoner always felt that Dolly Parton would become a super success. When she finally left him to work on her own he told friends that he knew it was only a matter of time before she crossed the line from country to city audiences. He also pointed out that far from considering her "disloyal" to the country scene, it was a tribute to them for helping her become a star.



DOLLY PARTON



OLIVIA
NEWTON-JOHN



MERLE HAGGARD



EDDIE RABBITT



OLIVIA NEWTON-JOHN: Coming Home to AMERICA

She was born in Britain,
raised in Australia. But she
found her "roots" with
America's "country cousins."

There were some who were aghast when Olivia Newton-John was voted top woman singer by the Country Music Association a few years back. Not only wasn't the lady a *bona fide* born and bred corn fed beauty from America's country and/or western scene but she wasn't even a *bona fide* born and bred American! However, while a few grumps harumphed about it, every other knowledgeable country music fan applauded the choice. Olivia's way with a country song belies her Welsh and Australian background. No stiff upper lip shaped any of those plaintively sung notes. But, hold on! Isn't that just the point? After all, country music traces its origins to the Scots-Irish-Welsh settlers who brought their fiddles and reels to America and put their own words about woe and lost love to the same strains their ancestors sang way back before Elizabeth Tudor was born. So, welcome home Olivia. And stay around a long time, you hear?



Little did Olivia Newton-John think that success in the States would put her into one of the most "American" of all art forms; country music a music which she heard much of her life in Wales and Australia!



Johnny Cash: Still Paying The Lord's Dues

And still getting back a lot more than he ever
dared believe he was worth.

"The more change there is, the healthier the whole picture is. We can't just lay back on our accomplishments and achievements..." This was Johnny Cash speaking slowly and seriously in describing the fast changes occurring in the country music industry.

Johnny Cash. The very name that is probably the biggest phenomenon to happen in country music since its very inception some fifty years ago. Known to his fans as the man in black (more often than not he is garbed in a familiar black suit), he has filled arenas here and around the world displaying truth and honesty and a perceptive awareness of the human condition, good and bad. Cash has certainly traveled many hard roads to attain the latitude of success he so richly deserves.

Born the son of an Arkansas farmer, Cash and his family suffered greatly during the Depression years, as did most

Americans during that time. By the time Cash completed high school, America was involved in the Korean War. He enlisted in the Air Force and was assigned to Germany. Country music has always been an important part of Cash's boyhood, so while in Germany he bought his very first guitar. During those lonely hours he practiced his guitar and wrote many songs. And it was at this time he wrote the classic *Folsom Prison Blues*, after seeing the film *Inside The Walls of Folsom Prison*. "There wasn't much romance to the writing of *Folsom Prison Blues*. I saw the movie, liked it, and wrote the song," Cash explained.

When Cash returned to the States, he got married. He enrolled in a radio school — hoping to one day be a country music disc jockey — but soon found out he preferred performing much better. He had always wanted to sing and believed that his future lay in music. So, after many fruitless overtures to

the Sun Recording Company (then Memphis' only record company), he got Sam Phillips of that record label who agreed to record him. After *Cry, Cry, Cry* and *Hey, Porter*, Johnny Cash was certainly on his way. The year was 1955.

Like many other country music legends, Johnny Cash did not embrace success all that well. Cash was — and still is — quite shy. Although his records were hitting the charts, he was becoming more dependent on pills to bolster his confidence and to keep him going double time. Within a very short time, he was caught up in an endless circle of amphetamines and barbituates. He was spending more time on the road than at home, and his marriage was destined to fail before too long.

Then along came June Carter. In the mid-60's he was one of country music's superstars, however, the country music

(continued on page 60)



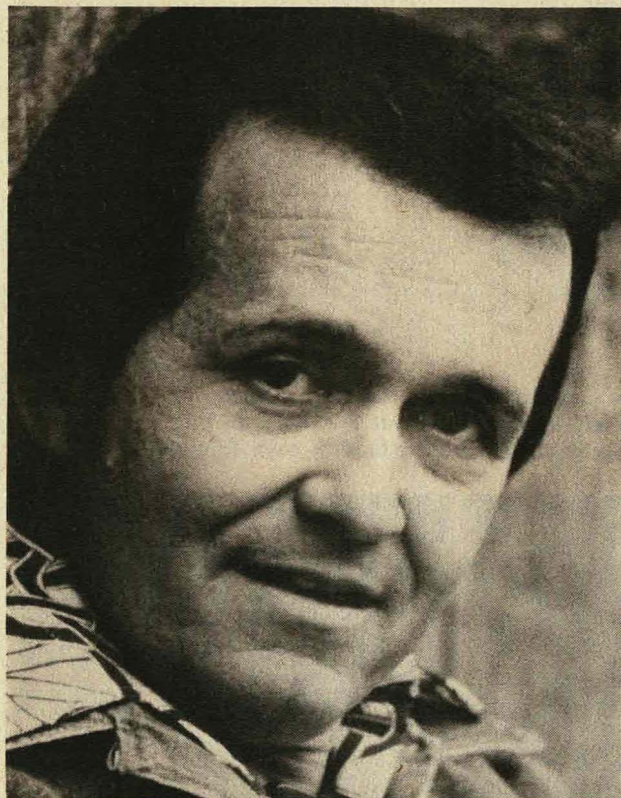
Ray Charles and Johnny Cash have been friends for years. At one time Cash thought of becoming a blues musician. "I was always drawn to that kind of music. Maybe because I felt, inside, that it was the music of people who were trying to reach God's ear with their voices and their songs. I still love the blues," says Johnny,



Before Johnny married June Carter, he found life "unsettling and sometimes frightening." He had come out of an unhappy earlier marriage and was — "frankly, afraid to try marriage again. But thank God I had the good sense to marry June . . ." (Her mother, Maybelle Carter, died October 78.)

Here are 33 of the top stars in country and western music and a little bit of information you may want to know about them. Keep this guide handy. **AND!!!!** If you have suggestions about stars you want to see in a future issue, send a letter to: **COUNTRY MUSIC WORLD, c/o IDEAL PUBLISHING CO. 2 Park Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016.** We'd do our best to be guided by your thoughts.

COUNTRY STAR GUIDE



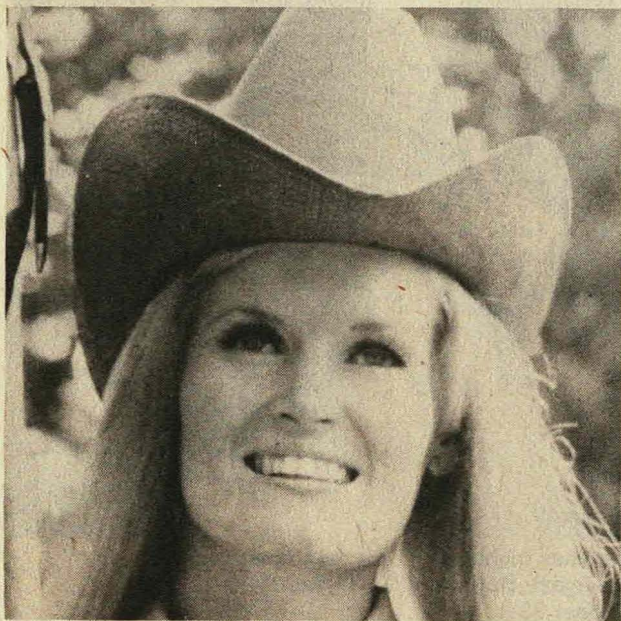
BILL ANDERSON

Bill, a journalism major at the University of Georgia, has become one of the most popular stars in Scotland (ancestral home of the Andersons')!



"COWBOY" REX ALLEN

Among the many stars who have achieved worldwide fame as a country/western singer, Rex Allen Jr. ranks as one of the greatest of all.

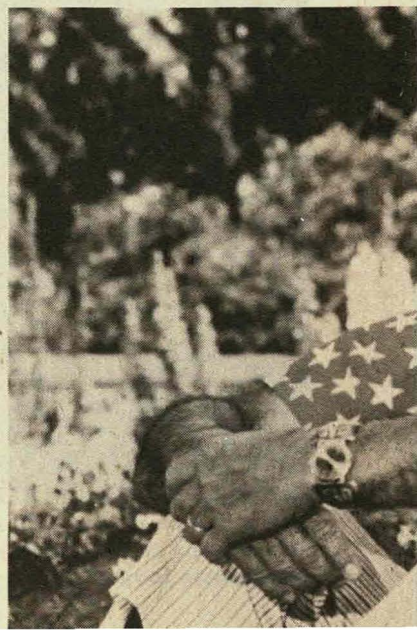


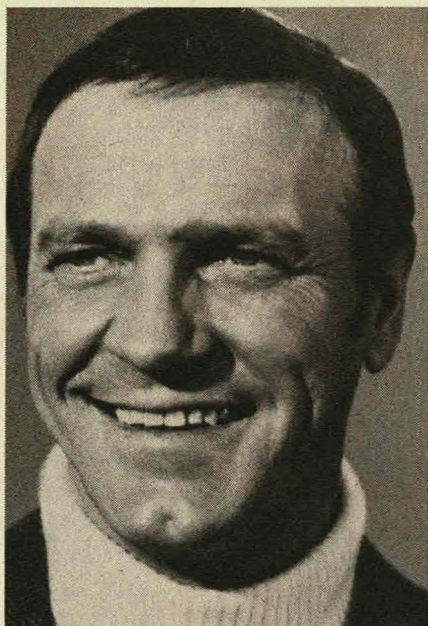
TENNESSEE ERNIE FORD

Tennessee had an opportunity to sing with a famous American opera company but he chose to concentrate on "singing songs from the heartland."

LYNN ANDERSON

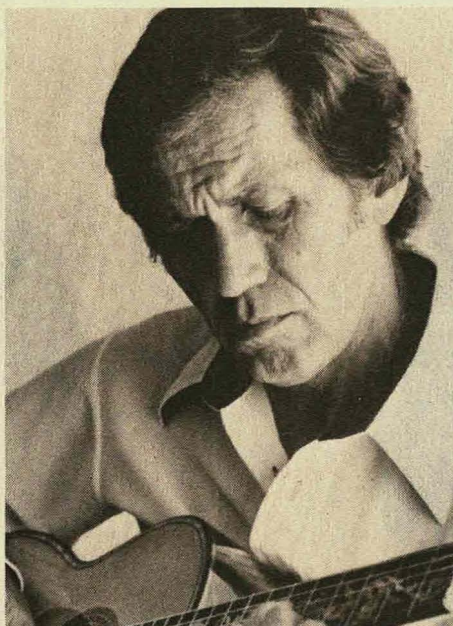
Who said that sex appeal and talent aren't found in one great package? Lynn Anderson not only looks great, sings great, but writes her own stuff.





EDDY ARNOLD

Eddy's voice is as distinctive as it's possible for any man's voice to be. He has had many imitators but no one has been able to match his unique style.



CHET ATKINS

A genius. (And all the great guitarists say so too.) Along with being one of the finest musicians and composers, he is also a music company executive.



GARY BUSEY

This native of Oklahoma (he's part American Indian) started playing guitar and drums as a youngster. He's popular with r&b, rock and blues fans.



LONNIE DONEGAN

Lonnie was born and bred in Britain. But he always had a "feeling" for the country/western sound. His hit, "Rock Island Line," is now a classic.

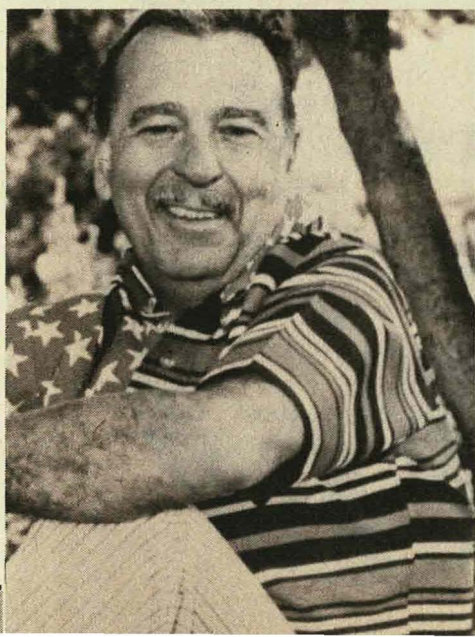
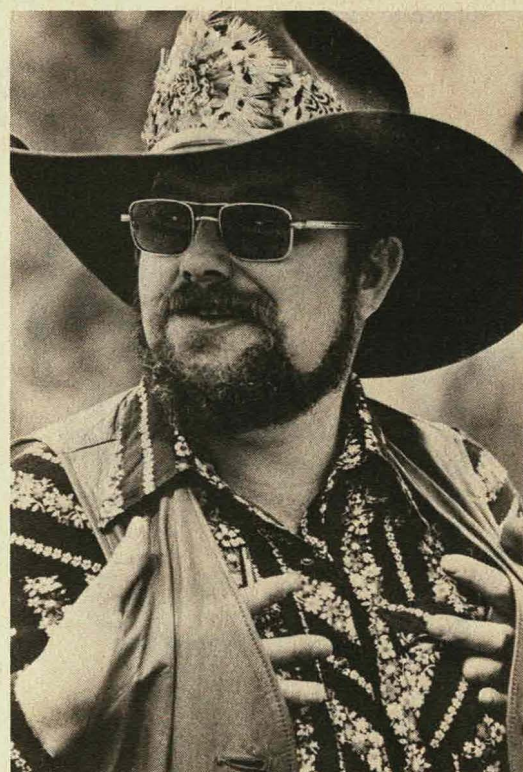
CHARLIE DANIELS

Charlie's sound has a lot of Georgia in it. Not quite as "rock" as say, Atlanta Rhythm Section or Allman Bros. But "country" with a Peachtree patina.



CONNIE EATON

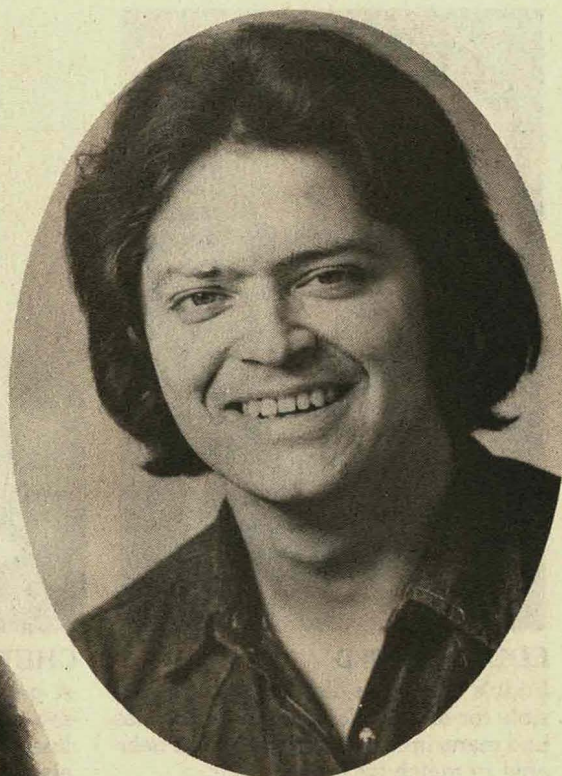
Some folks thought gorgeous Connie should head right for Hollywood. But Connie liked the idea of starting her career in Nashville first.





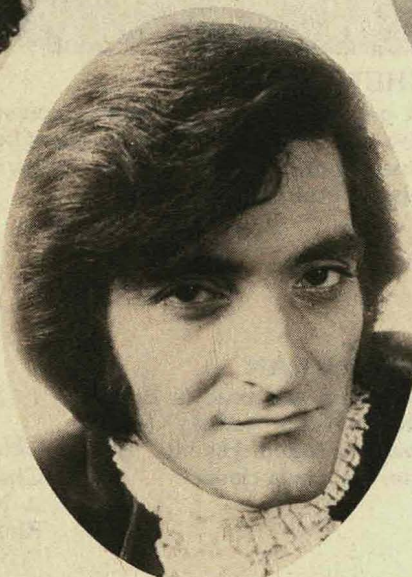
DONNA FARGO

Donna's first memory is that of a little girl standing in her parents' living room and singing a country song she heard on radio. That was her first "triumph."



JOHNNY RODRIGUEZ

Johnny's soft voice sends thrills through you. And when his voice is lifted on a long sustained note it carries you up into a musical experience you never forget.



ROGER MILLER

Roger became a big star with the non-country crowd when he turned out the hit, "King of the Road." He's continued to turn out smash hits.

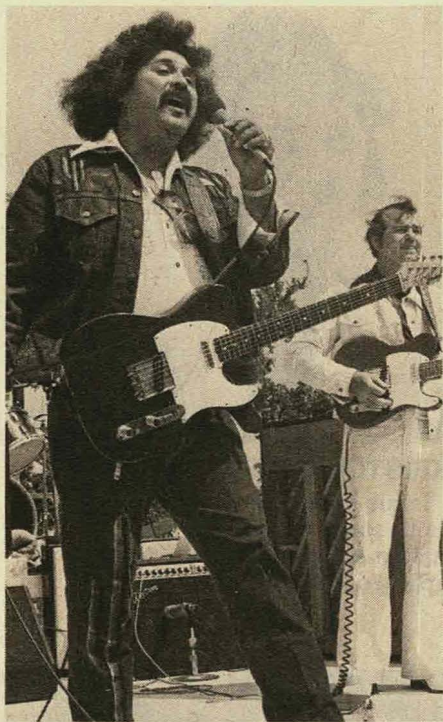
TAMMY WYNETTE

Shortly after she was attacked on a roadway (see our story in this issue) Tammy's as yet unknown assailant threatened her with death again.

DOUG KERSHAW

Doug dug the music of his native Louisiana countryside and played them on a violin to become the first great "Bayou violinist of world-renown."



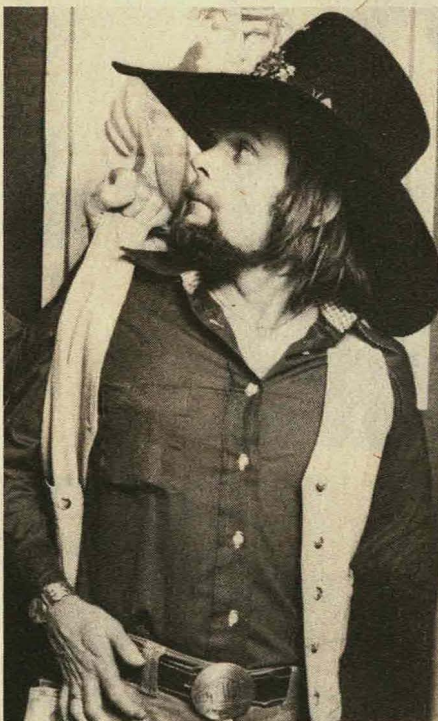


FREDDY FENDER

His songs in English won him Texas fans. His songs in Spanish wowed his Mexican admirers. This led to the birth of his special sound: Tex-Mex!

JOHNNY PAYCHECK

Johnny became the hero of the "average" man and woman when he started to sing songs about the woes that befall "America's working stiffs."

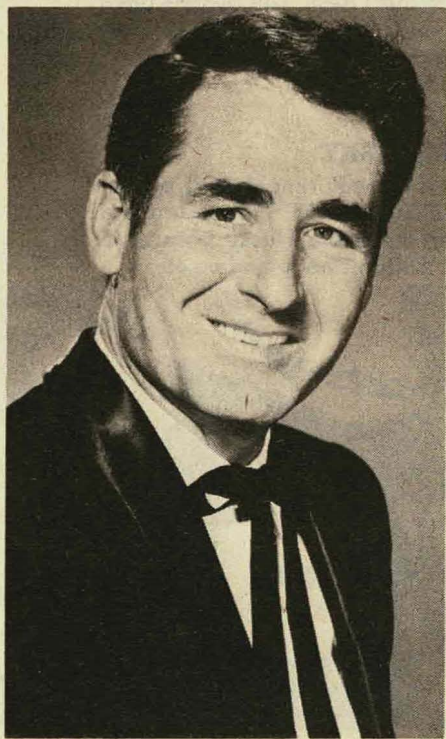


WANDA JACKSON

Wanda's brilliant voice can send shivers down the back of snowmen. She credits her style to a grandma who told her to sing "true and sing it out."

SHEB WOOLEY

Few people become living legends in their own time but Mr. Sheb Wooley did. He won the distinction for his smooth, easy-going style.

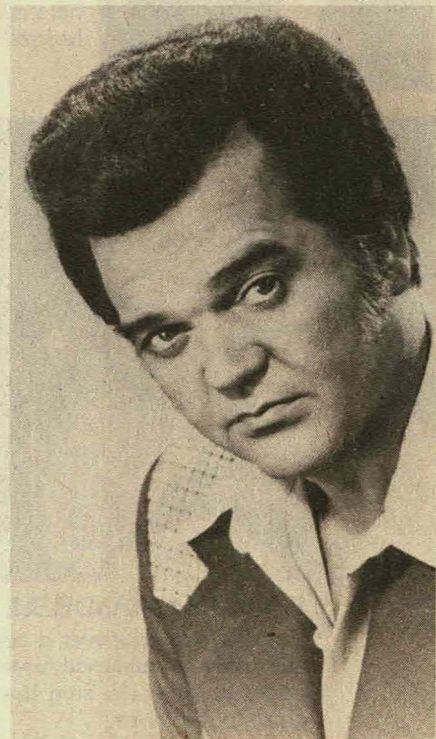


MINNIE PEARL

Minnie is a very social lady in Nashville, Tennessee. But when she puts on that straw hat with the price tag on it, she becomes everyone's favorite "hillbilly."

CONWAY TWITTY

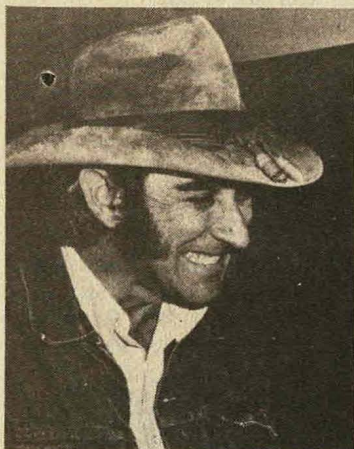
Twitty's hit, "Little Darlin,'" was translated into Russian and carried to a Russian cosmonaut by American astronaut Stafford a few years ago.





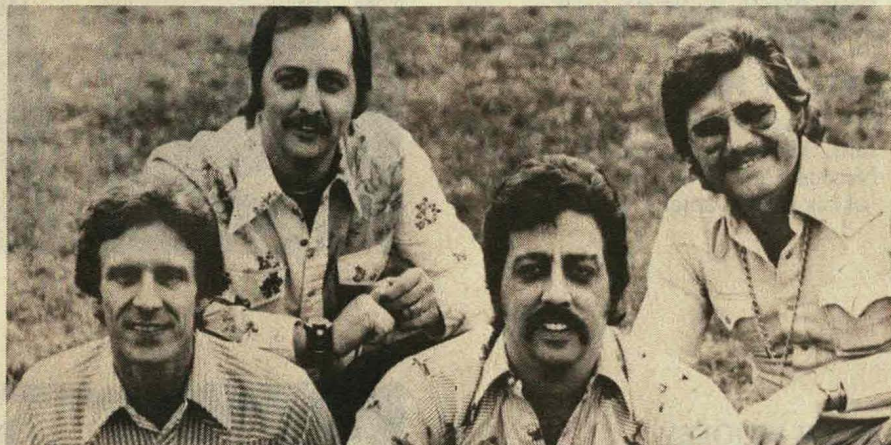
STELLA PARTON

If the name and face are familiar, they should be. She's Dolly Parton's (nearly) look-alike sister and she's tearing up the turntables with her hot music.



DON WILLIAMS

One of the most unassuming men around is Mr. Don Williams. Although he's considered a country star, he calls himself: "a singer. That's all."



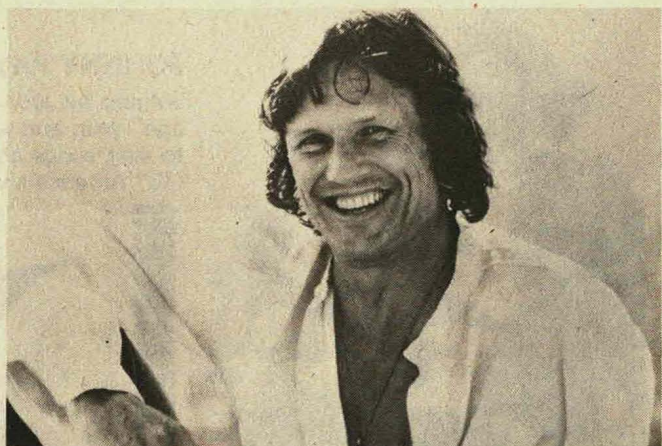
THE STATLER BROTHERS

Back, from left: Don Reid, Lou DeWitt. Front, from left: Phil Balsley and Harold (Don's brother) Reid. The Statlers have been chosen top country group over past half-dozen years.



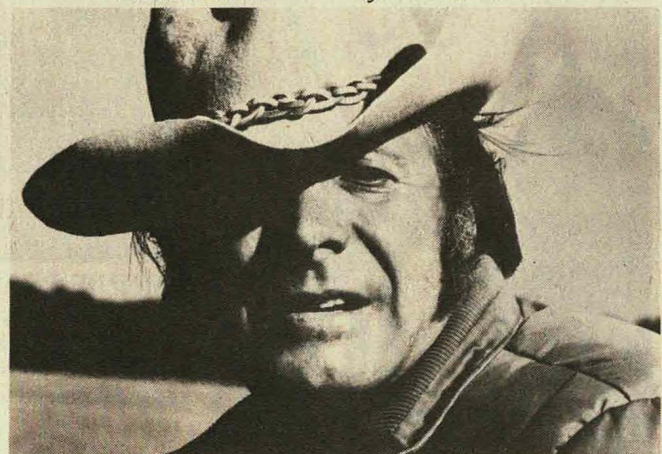
BARBARA MANDRELL

Barbara can take over a concert stage and make an audience forget they ever heard anyone else sing the songs she pours out to them.



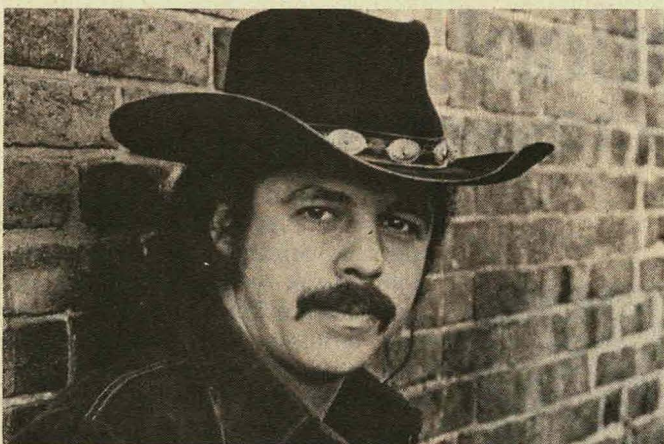
KRIS KRISTOFFERSON

Kris, a Texas-born Rhodes Scholar who has become famous as both a singer and an actor, is writing a novel that's supposed to be WOW!



FERLIN HUSKY

Ferlin had a tough time getting people not to call him Merlin. Not so tough a time with the name Husky because it reflected both his body and voice.

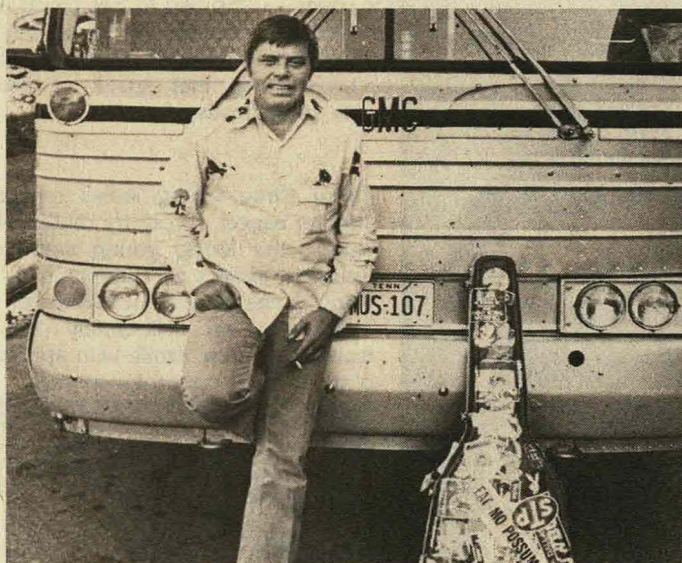


STEVE YOUNG

Steve is considered a young Waylon Jennings. Steve, like Jennings, is a leader of the progressive, or "outlaw" movement in country music.

TOM T. HALL

Tom T. rides around the country in a custom bus that has become as famous as its owner. "I like living on the road. It's a sense of real freedom."



TANYA TUCKER

Tanya will be starring in her first major movie soon. Wherever and whenever she can, she devotes time and effort to animal care organizations.

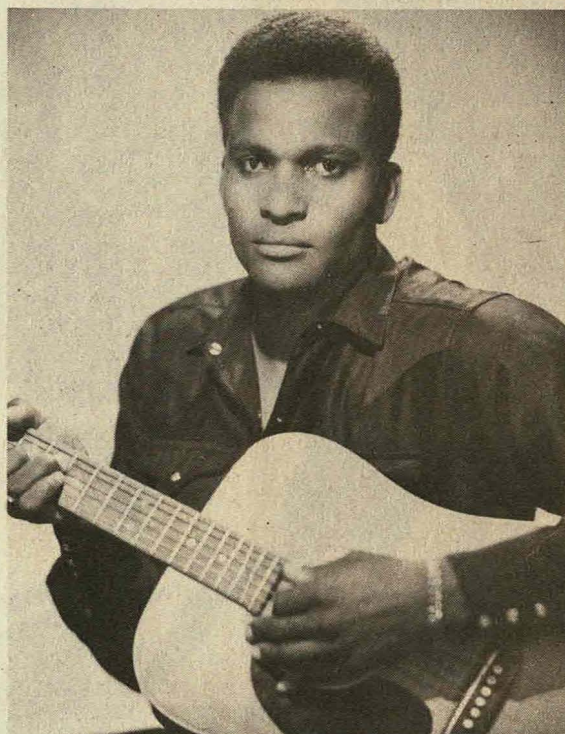


MEL TILLIS

Mel, the stuttering country star, rarely loses out in any competition for the "best" in his field. He's one of the great country singers whose work keeps getting better.

CHARLIE PRIDE

Charlie was the first black man to make it big in the country/western music scene. "Why shouldn't I sing country songs? It's my country, too," he says.



Sex, Sin & Salvation!

How To Put It All Together To Write A Country Song

You hear it all in a country song. Someone's in jail and the reason might be anything from a Saturday night drunk to a robbery. Or you hear about a faithless man or a sinning woman. You hear about a broken heart in the wake of unfaithfulness. Or the song tells of revenge that now has the singer waiting for the hangman at dawn. You also hear about God and about repentance and salvation. And you wonder — is it all for real or is it all for commercial purposes? Well, it's *continued on page 50*



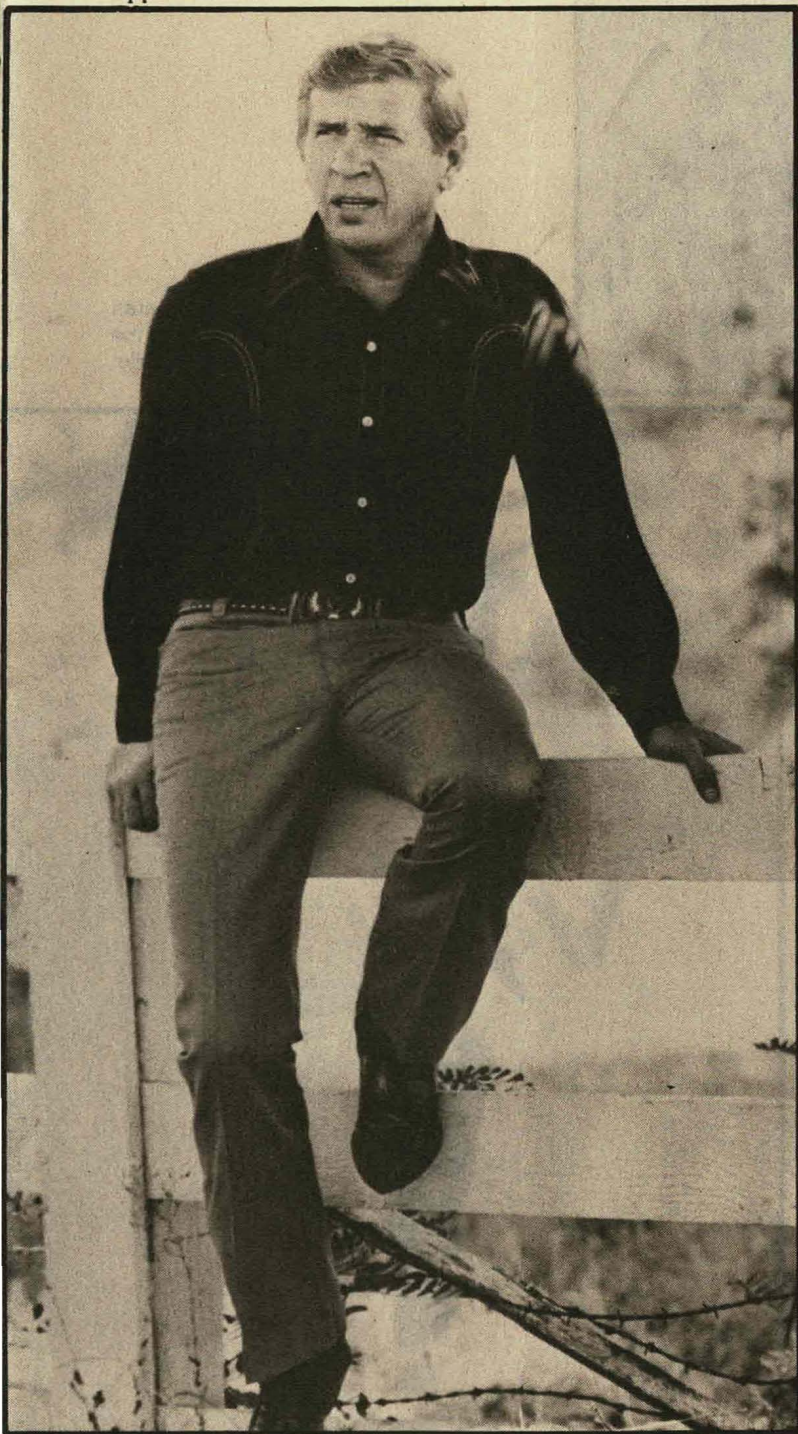
This record album cover shows Hank Williams, Jr. and Lois Johnson in a tender scene. Needless to say both the scene and the "hit single" marked on the cover — "So Sad to See Good Love Go Bad" — are intended to convey the undeniable impression that the album contains songs that speak of broken hearts and sorrow.

These three young ladies represent a brighter aspect of country music. They're among the lovely young women who welcome visitors to "Opryland, U.S.A." along Tennessee's Cumberland River. Their songs are deliberately "fun" and make the listener smile with appreciation of the good humor they convey.



If anyone was to pick up a "typical" country song some 1,000 years from now and try to measure the culture of the land from the lyrics, that person might deduce that the folks of this era had very little time to do anything but what the songs said they did. True? Let's find out . . .

Buck Owens, one of the most successful country musicians around, says that when he is interested in "thinking up a new song," he thinks about all the things "that just naturally happen to folks."



Right. When Mac Davis lost his wife, Sarah, to Glenn Campbell, (two years after this photo was taken) folks thought there were the makings of a "country song" there. But Mac and Glenn agreed to be "civilized" about it all.



Roy Clark is considered one of the finest musicians and composers around. His inspiration comes from "livin' . . . just livin'."



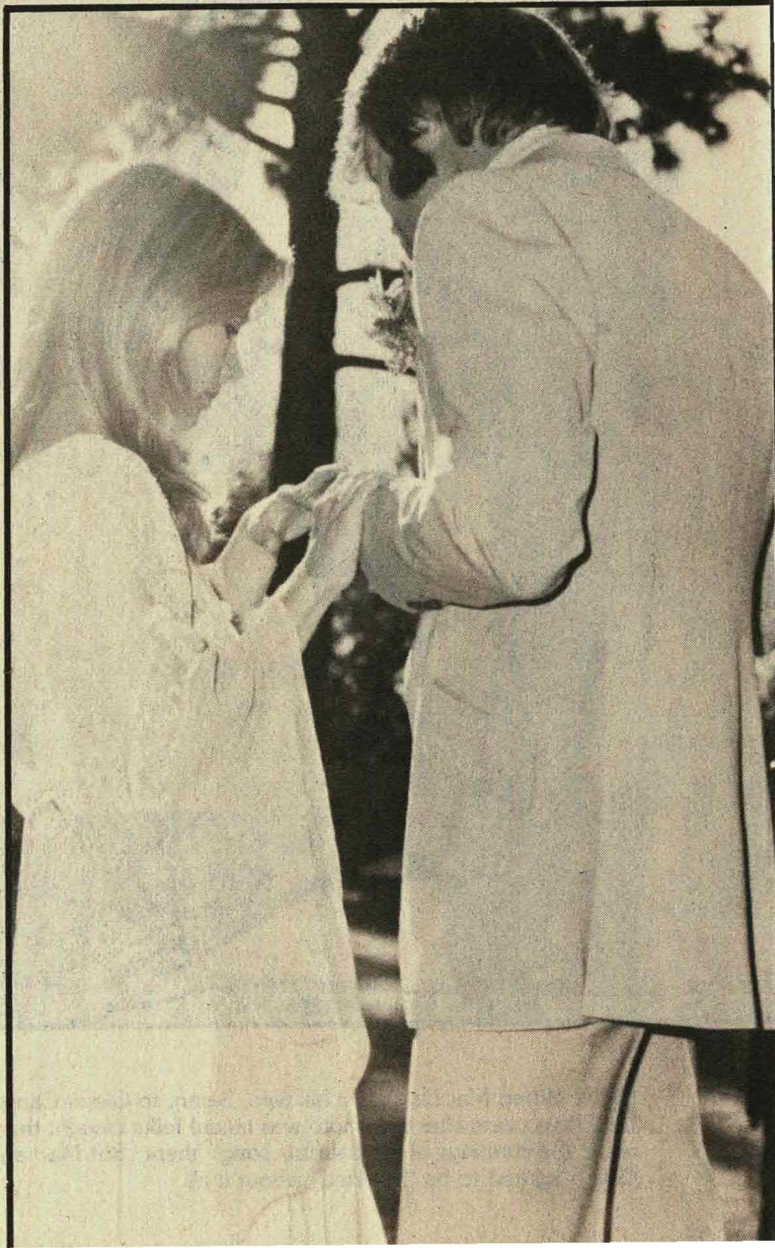
Sex, Sin & Salvation!



Lynn Anderson, left in photo at left, sang a country song. Tina Turner did a city ditty. Common theme: How to get over "experiencing" a faithless man.

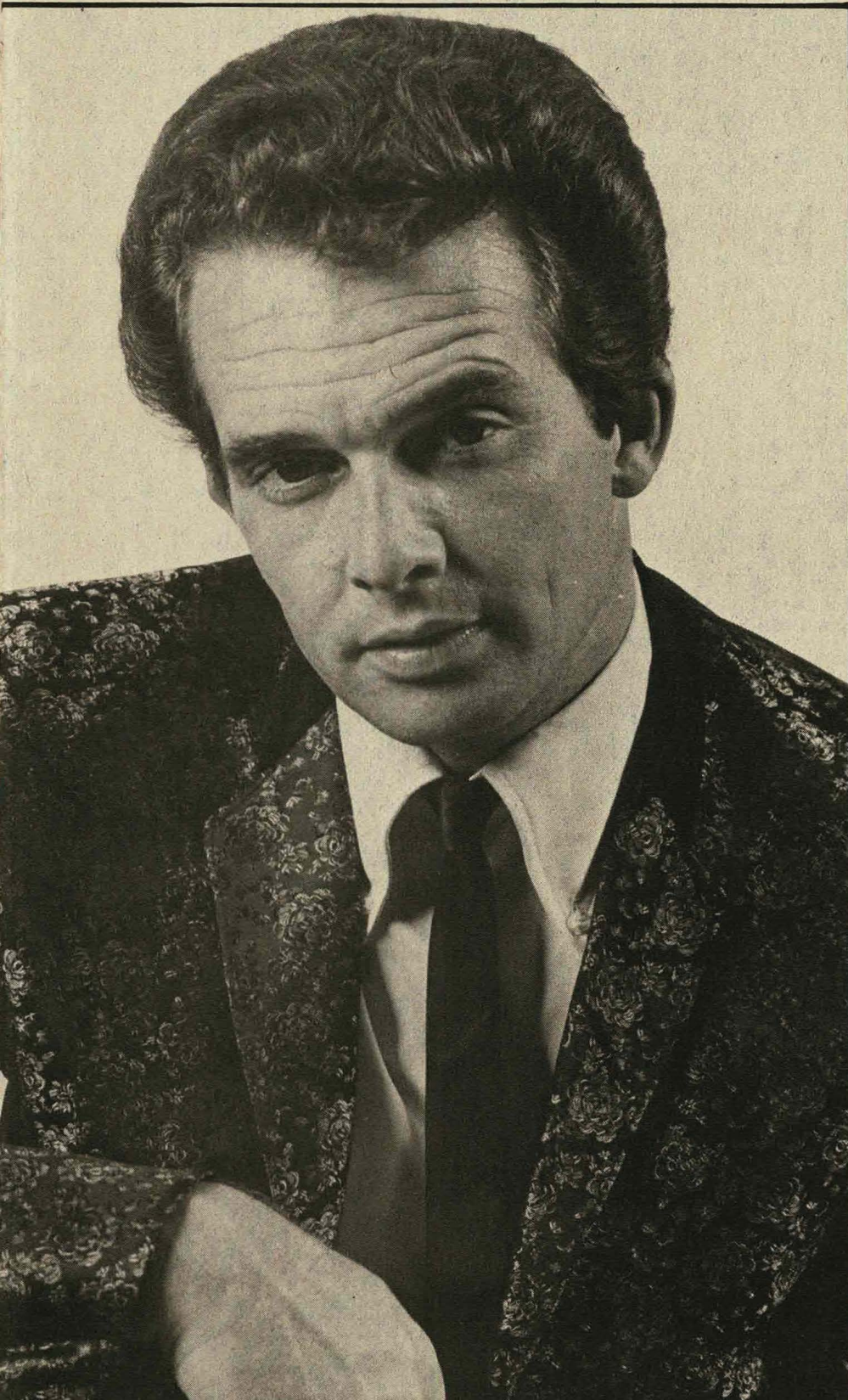
Glenn Campbell's marriage to Sarah Davis, Mac's ex, could have become the basis of a "country lament." Fortunately, it didn't. Cooler heads prevailed.

Below. Charlie Pride has been asked many times to put the struggle of the black man into his music. Said Charlie: "Anyone who doesn't hear it isn't listening. Besides, my music appeals to everyone who's struggled"



both. Country songs did begin as laments or as stories to be told to anyone who cared to listen. Put these emotional elements together and, yes, you do have the formula for a best-selling hit. Why? Because people everywhere will relate to experience that speaks of the human condition. How to put them together? Well, you should have a touch of the poet in you before you try to sell such lyrics. Write it all down. Read it

back to yourself. If it makes you feel uncomfortable, forget it. But if it makes you react as you hoped it would, then you might have the makings of a hit song. For further information on how to proceed consult a reliable book. One such book is *Harvey Rachlin's, "The Songwriter's Handbook,"* published by Funk & Wagnall, or your librarian can help you find another suitable book. Now go to it — and good luck!



Jeannie C. Riley's song about the "righteousness" of a local P.T.A. hit big. She was singing about something too often true.

Merle Haggard's songs reflect his experiences, which include jail, divorce, disillusion. He resented, he said, an ex-president using music for "political aims."



Donna Fargo:

Still A School Marm . . .

Even though Donna is going through a siege few people will ever, fortunately, have to endure, she takes time to teach us a lesson in courage.

"I wasn't ready for success," Donna Fargo readily admitted, "and fate saw to it that I didn't get success right away. For that I am actually glad."

In reality, Donna Fargo did not realistically set her hopes on a singing career. After high school, she entered college, was graduated and moved to Southern California where she began a relatively sedate life as a high school English teacher. Then, however, she met Stan Silver, who taught her how to play guitar, guided her music and eventually became her producer, and husband.

Donna was still teaching high school while performing her country songs in California clubs when she finally made the decision to give it her all. Recognition came in '72 when Dot released *The Happiest Girl*, which turned into a Gold record. The same was true for *Funny Face*, and *Superman* and *You Were Always There*.

Donna is the dedicated singer but at times she has thought about quitting to raise a family. "Sometimes we

want a family," she has said, "and sometimes we don't. I wonder how it will turn out." Certainly, her career has placed certain restrictions about being a celebrity, she has said. "People have to tell me I'm a celebrity. At first, I was amazed when I saw people and they stopped on the street or asked me for my autograph."

Continuing on the subject of celebrity, she revealed, "what bothers me most about this life is that it's hard to wind down. You don't eat well on the road. It's trash eating. We grab hot dogs and sandwiches at awful places. The peas and carrots we order in restaurants are almost always canned and tasteless."

It certainly doesn't sound as though success necessarily breeds happiness. "I wrote *The Happiest Girl*," she explained, "because I wanted to make a statement about happiness. The idea kind of sat up there for two months waiting to explode. Then, one Saturday night in front of the fireplace, I didn't have any specific intention of any particular words, but they just came out of me - 'good

morning', morning' - good morning' sunshine.' And the second verse just happened. Maybe it's because I'm Scorpio. Things just happen to me. Things happen to Scorpios . . ."

And they do. What happened to Donna was more than success in her profession and in her personal life. What happened to Donna was all of this plus a nightmare from which she cannot awaken but which she refuses to allow to dominate her life. Donna discovered, early this year (1978) that she has a muscle condition that can, if the disease goes that way, result in disability. However, what Donna chose to do when she learned of the diagnosis was — "to ignore what could happen and, instead, live my life as normally and as positively as I would have if I didn't know about this situation."

To that extent she has certainly, once more, proved herself a success. And she has taught us all a valuable lesson about courage — and about life.

by BEA ADAMS

JERRY LEE LEWIS: STILL RAISING HELL!



Jerry's found himself through faith. But that doesn't mean he can't fight the Devil on his own terms anymore.

recording studio. In short, he's a solid pro. An author recently referred to Jerry Lee Lewis as "maybe, the greatest country singer alive."

Listening to Jerry Lee's recordings, you will find an assortment of country songs that range from rockabilly and pure ballads to wild boogie and redneck country blues. He is more diversified than ever in his style.

In 1977 he released two albums—his biggest sellers in years—that reached the top of the country and western record charts. He made a number of television appearances, had a role in the 50's-set rock 'n' roll movie,

American Hot Wax, which was said by many to be the high point of the film, and toured for eleven months of the year.

Today, his concerts are sensational. His singing can bring tears to the eyes, while his stage antics, though somewhat tamer than they were in years previous, are still an attraction in itself.

A country music concert is at its best with Jerry Lee Lewis on stage. He's wild, witty, beautiful, funny and outrageous. After all these years, he's still raisin' hell.

And hopefully, in the years to come, he will still be.

by Harvey Rachlin

Country star Jerry Lee Lewis' life story reads like a sensational novel. A 50's rock 'n' roller whose songs stirred the heads of parents everywhere (but delighted millions of American youths), he was considered by many to be the "bad boy" of rock 'n' roll.

Controversy of some sort however, seemed to be attached to all rockers in those days.

But to complicate matters further, the lifestyle led by The Killer (as he has been called) caused further alienation at that time among many people. In 1958, he married his 13-year-old cousin, making her his third wife. This caused a great scandal and over a hundred thousand dollars worth of concert bookings, both here and in England, were cancelled. Furthermore, his music was boycotted by radio stations everywhere. The end of Jerry Lee Lewis' musical career?

For several years it did appear that Lewis was a casualty in the music world. But the year 1968 witnessed the reincarnation of one of rock 'n' roll's great superstars with the reemergence of Jerry Lee Lewis, now a country and western singer. In that year, he did his first full-blown country music recording session. Although he earlier recorded country tunes, they were mostly flip sides of singles. Now it was strictly country time for The Killer.

Like many country ballads, Jerry's are filled with tragedy. Tragedies that reflect perhaps, the misfortunes that have occurred in his very own life. For instance, the son born to he and his third wife drowned in the family pool in 1962. His fourth wife filed for legal separation in 1974. In 1976 he was arrested twice: first, for disorderly conduct outside of Elvis Presley's Graceland mansion; and second, for shooting his bass player in the chest with a .357 magnum.

But today, people don't discriminate against performers if their personal life might be somewhat erratic. Music is what counts, and that's why Jerry Lee Lewis is tops in country music.

In Nashville, his colleagues have only the highest respect for him. He is always promptly on time for recording sessions. He records efficiently and expertly in the

ANNE MURRAY:

The Sweetest "Double Cross" Of All

Canada is famous for giving us more than hockey teams and Lorne Greene. Anne Murray is another nice gift.

Anne Murray has crossed two borders to emerge as the country *supersongstress* she is today. Those borders are the lines separating Canada from the United States and the barbed-wire perimeter surrounding the music business' pop kingdom.

Murray recalls that that was not even on the top of her mind while

a high school teacher on Canada's Prince Edward Island. When friends tried to convince her to give up teaching and pursue a full-time singing career, Anne says, "I thought they were crazy! Singing was something you did in the bathtub and around bonfires. I felt there was no security in singing."

When her first international hit,

Snowbird, reached the top of the country charts and people began calling her a "country singer," Murray was shocked. "How could they say that when I had never really listened to country music?" she asks. "All I was doing was singing music I like to sing."

Fact is, the country folks seem to love this charming lady more than their pop counterparts. With ten albums charting high in both country and pop, only 14 of her singles graced the pop charts while 18 scored high in country (including the number one *He Thinks I Still Care* and *Son of A Rotten Gambler*, both of which never saw the light of day in pop-land).

After college and one year of teaching, Anne's professional recording career began with a small Canadian record label. Her first album caught the attention of Capitol Records of Canada and she was signed. When the first release on Capitol in the United States, *Snowbird*, sold over a million copies, Murray became the first female Canadian recording artist to earn a Gold Record in the U.S. Since then she has won countless other awards, including Grammy Awards in the U.S. and its counterpart, the Juno Awards in Canada.

"I enjoy all types of music," this pretty balladeer says. "When I sing before a crowd I want to offer something for everyone whether they like jazz, gospel, country or pop music. I'm not limited to one musical format."

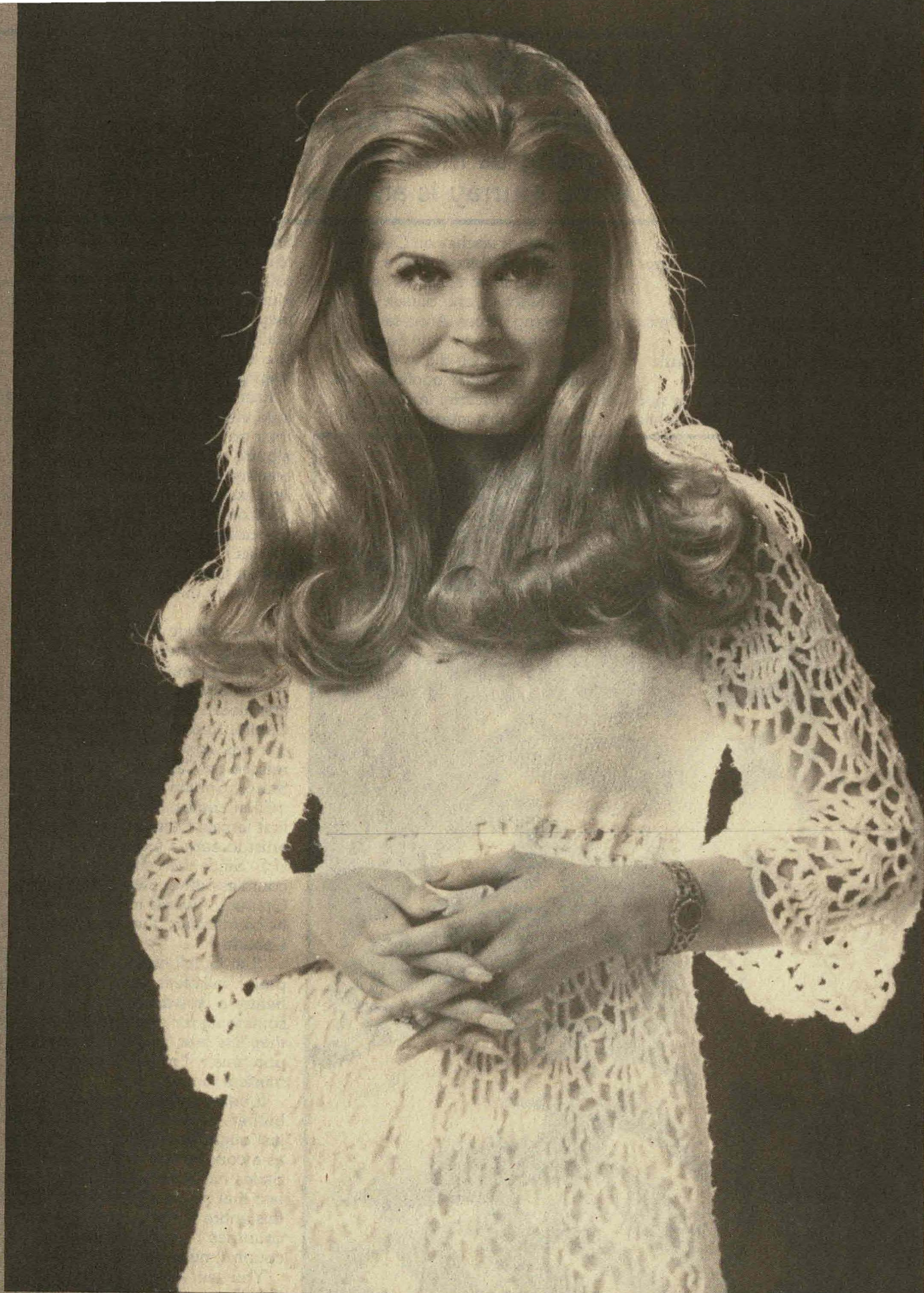
If being labeled "country" bothers Anne Murray, perhaps she just ought to realize that her status as a country star in the United States more accurately reflects the fact that she is a celebrated artist in this entire country, or two entire countries, and not just the country music market.

You see, Anne, we folks from Honolulu to Bangor, from Ohio to Ontario just love you!

by Harvey Rachlin

COUNTRY MUSIC WORLD 55





LYNN ANDERSON

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Teddy Bear



Bunny Rabbit

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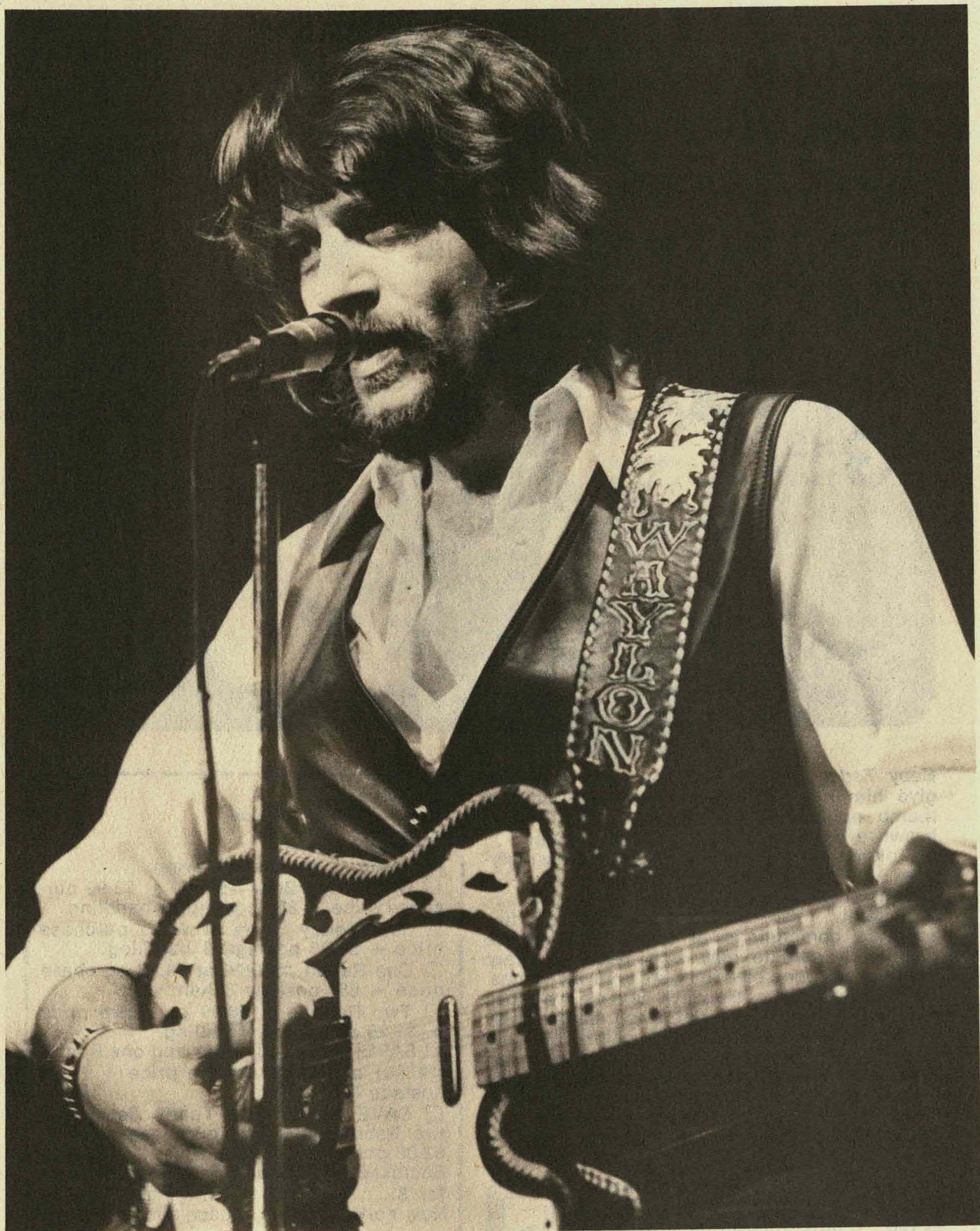
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Waylon
JENNINGS

(continued from page 20)

because of this, country music artists struggled to get work anywhere and Emery cites four key men who helped keep the music from dying off into oblivion — Marty Robbins, George Jones, Ray Price and Faron Young.

"They survived everything," Emery recalls. "I have often thought if it wasn't for WSM country music would have died. But the Grand Ole Opry kept going and we had the all-night radio show. Then there were some big stars who came along.

"I always thought that the rebirth of country happened in the mid-'60s, when Buck Owens was so hot. Sixty-six was the key year and Haggard cranked up and Tammy Wynette and Charley Pride came along then."

Those all-night entertaining shows helped weary travelers stay awake. They included hundreds of great, spontaneous things that were lost because they weren't taped. As an example, there was this rock singer who kept trying to convince Emery he was actually a country singer until Emery gave him his chance to prove. Today, there is no doubt Conway Twitty can belt out a song. And there were other good times every night for more than a year when the late Tex Ritter co-hosted the show.

With stars like them, country music's place seems secure now. More than a thousand stations in addition to WSM play it.

"I believe it's healthier than ever and I think it's going to get better," Emery says. "The median age is going up and that's good for country music — we have very little to offer the teenyboppers.

"You can be around these people and forget how talented they are. Roger Miller was here, Kris Kristofferson was here, and he'd be the first to tell you he hadn't developed singing skills.

"Willie Nelson is a hell of a good interview, a good storyteller. I think Waylon's a nice man. That's going to sound strange to a good many people. He has a lot of drive — he is an artist. Waylon, as far back as I can remember, wanted to try his own ideas. He is, I think, very sensitive to what they say, and because of it is very suspicious of people. If they mistreat him, he remembers. However, he has brought excitement to our business."

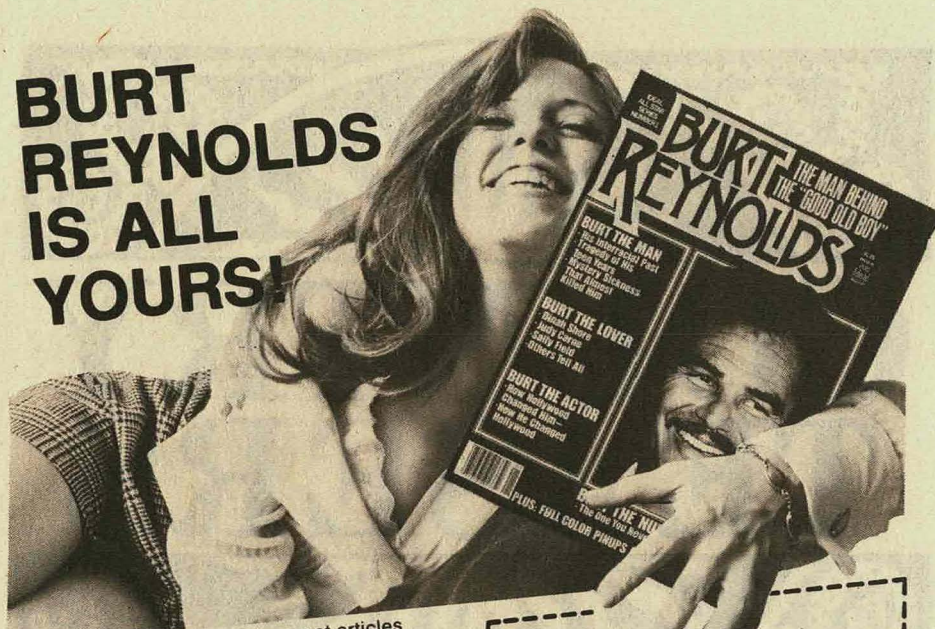


COUNTRY TEASERS

1. WHO IS MRS. HENRY CANNON?
2. WHO WAS DR. HUMPHREY BATE?
3. WHO WERE THE "POSSUM HUNTERS?"
4. WHAT DO THE CALL LETTERS, WSM, IN NASHVILLE, STAND FOR?
5. WHO IS RED FOLEY'S FAMOUS GRANDDAUGHTER?
6. WHO WROTE "BOUQUET OF ROSES" WHICH BECAME A TOP POP SONG AS WELL AS COUNTRY HIT?
7. UPON WHOM WAS THE CHARACTER RONEE BLAKELY PLAYED IN "NASHVILLE" SUPPOSED TO BE BASED (ALTHOUGH EVERYONE INVOLVED DENIES IT)?
8. HOW MANY SEATS ARE THERE IN THE "NEW" GRAND OLE OPRY HOUSE WHICH OPENED IN 1974?
9. WHAT WAS THE NAME OF THE OLD OLE OPRY HOUSE?
10. WHO IS THE "SMOKEY MOUNTAIN BOY?"

- ANSWERS
1. MINNIE PEARL
 2. HE LED HIS FAMILY ONTO A STAGE AT NASHVILLE'S RADIO STATION WSM ON OCT. 15, 1925 AS THE FIRST "GUESTS" OF THE BRAND NEW "GRAND OLE OPRY."
 3. THEY WERE THE GROUP DR. BATES HEADED UP.
 4. W-S-M. MEANS: WE SERVE MILLIONS
 5. DEBBY BOONE, OF COURSE. DEBBY'S MOM IS THE FORMER SHIRLEY FOLEY.
 6. THE GREAT EDDY ARNOLD. AND IT NEARLY LANDED HIM A JOB AS TENNESSEE'S GOVERNOR BECAUSE OF THE FAME IT BROUGHT HIM NATIONALLY.
 7. SEVERAL COUNTRY LADIES WERE SUPPOSED TO BE MODELS FOR THE ROLE WITH LORETTA LYNN AND TAMMY WYNETTE, REPORTEDLY, "CONTRIBUTING" MOST OF THE INFLUENCES.
 8. THERE ARE 4,400 SEATS IN THE "NEW" GRAND OLE OPRY HOUSE.
 9. NASHVILLE NATIVES ALWAYS REFERRED TO THE "OLE" OLE OPRY HOUSE AS THE RYMAN AUDITORIUM.
 10. ROY ACUFF, IS THE MAN WHO MOST OFTEN REPRESENTS THE ENTIRE "GRAND OLE OPRY" CONTINGENT BOTH IN NASHVILLE AND ELSEWHERE. HE'S SOMETIMES CALLED "NASHVILLE'S AMBASSADOR TO THE WORLD."

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Here are the many looks of Kristy McNichol as Buddy of "Family", all on one super poster! In one look, Kristy wears a multicolor (orange, bright blue, navy blue and gold) striped, zippered jacket. Then there's her romantic look, femininely attired in a sky-blue lingerie-type strapped evening gown, with matching blue flower in her hair. This full color poster is 23" x 29" — more than 7 times larger than this whole page! Get yours right away by mailing the handy coupon...

JOHNNY CASH

/Continued from page 41
industry was anticipating his demise. They knew about his psychosomatic laryngitis, they knew about his "no-shows" but they didn't know about June Carter and what a tremendous influence she would have on Johnny Cash. In '68, June enlisted the help of Dr. Nat Winston, the former head of the Tennessee Department for Mental Health, who helped Cash undergo a long withdrawal from drugs. Cash knew that he must get himself together and cooperated with successful and permanent results.

At this time, Johnny Cash came back to the Christian faith of his boyhood with a renewed dedication and a few years of added wisdom gleaned from the hard times he experienced. He visited Israel. And with the added strength he's found in himself and his marriage to June Carter, he's made a profound mark on the country music world as singer, songwriter and all-around entertainer.

"As far as the new directions in the business most notably 'The Outlaws,' I think that's just another way of saying 'new Directions.' Willie, Waylon, Tompall all of them are saying things, but they're saying them differently, and as an artist I really appreciate that," Cash said. "Y'know, myself, back in '56, I had a hard time breaking into the country music community in Nashville. I came up to the Grand Ole Opry to talk to Jim Denny, who was the manager of the Opry. *I Walk The Line* was #2. I had an appointment — finally, my manager had gotten me an appointment, but I sat in his outer office about two hours before he ever saw me. Finally he let me come in, and the very first question was, 'What makes you think you belong on the Grand Ole Opry?' See, I was one of those Memphis rockabillies — had sideburns — from that Memphis school of Presley and Perkins and Lewis and Orbison and Cash. It was a wonder they even let us in the city limits, the way they looked down at us at the time."

He sat and looked at me for five minutes before he said, 'When do you think you can come up here?'

Fads and fancies may change in the music business, and in fact do at regular intervals, but genuine talent and musical excellence are qualities which always stand the test of time.

This describes Don Williams, winner of this year's coveted CMA Male Vocalist of the Year. Williams is the type of person who even if he had not garnered the prestigious award, (which he never expected) would still be happy in knowing that he takes tremendous satisfaction in writing songs and singing them, as well.

An intensely private person with strong feelings about the importance of family life and his absolute right to live his family life out of the public eye, the 39-year-old Williams stands apart not only for his unwillingness to shuffle through the ceremonial dances of the music business, but also because of his impressive success despite refusing to do so!

And in the business where much socializing and the clinking of cocktail glasses are considered essential to success, Williams can often be found at home. "I've never been the kind of person who after hours meets so-and-so over at such-and-such to sit around and jaw or who goes somewhere just because somebody might drop in. That doesn't do a lot for me."

Williams' unorthodox fashion even goes as far as driving a pickup truck down Music Row and buys his wife's car according to its fuel economy rating. His dress rarely varies from jeans, farm shirt, a steadily aging Confederate officer's hat and a simple denim jacket. He could literally walk off the fields of his 85-acre farm outside Nashville, jump in his truck, drive to the concert and jump on stage and no one would be any wiser.

Aside from the basic facts, Williams will talk very little about his family life. When he doesn't have an appointment on Music Row, he spends free hours on the farm with wife, Joy, and their two sons, Gary, 15 and Timmy, 11. "I'm not a big fanfare person, even with my work," he says, "and I want even less than that when it comes to my family. I don't like the idea my family is being held up for a show and for my home to be some kind of showcase, because if it's a showcase how can I live there and do?"

"I guess you might say that I

DON WILLIAMS: HE NEVER THOUGHT THEY'D CALL HIS NAME



shield them," he admits, "but I keep my family for what it is. I'm the father of my two boys, I'm my wife's husband and they don't have to be down at the factory with me for everybody to criticize or praise. World and family are two different things altogether."

Before breaking into country music, he was the founder of a pop trio, The Pozo Seco Singers, composed of himself, another male singer and a female singer. They experienced some moderate success with hits like *Time* and *I Can Make It With You*. The group, however, had little control over where and in what kind of places they played. Today he flatly states, "I'd prefer not to play any kind of tavern; I don't care if it seats four million people" and as for the Pozo Seco days he confesses, "Very honestly, I was just very defensive because that little gal (in the group) was like a sister to me. If anybody got drunk and started this Hey, Babe business, well, I'm the one...well, either we just walked

off the stage or we had a knock-down-drag-out because that doesn't make it in my book."

Williams' devotion to his family is even more striking in light of these inner compulsions which almost coerce him into making music. When they first married, his wife had the common conception that being in music automatically meant turning "into a rip-roaring drunk and running around with all the pretty babes and all that." Although Joy is now his "greatest encouragement," there were times in years past when the empathy was slight, the paychecks thin and it looked like a choice might have to be made. Don, who feels "responsible for everything I do," says the choice absolutely would have been family. "I would never desert my family, I would never do anything consciously to my family that would bring any kind of reproach or hardship or make demands on them financially, just so I can do what I want to do."

by Patricia Canole

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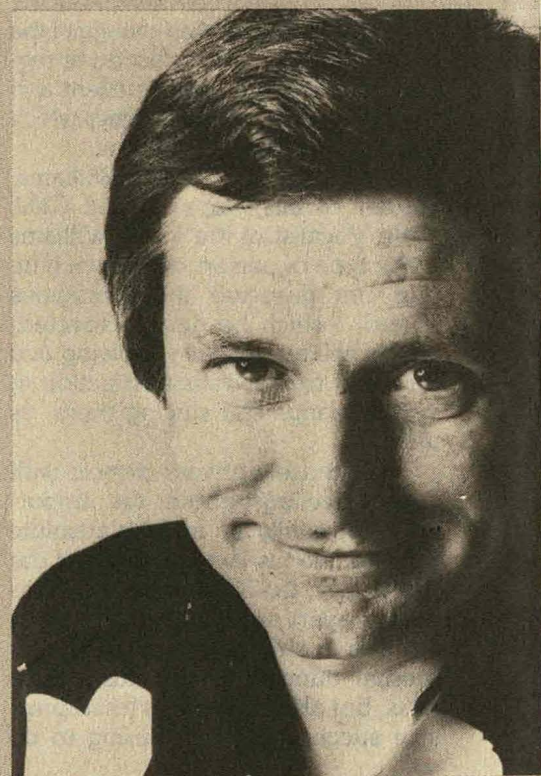
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Lonnie Donegan feels so American he's settled in the States. "In Nevada — the west," he boasts.

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Meet our select pops — Johnny Cash, Lonnie Donegan, and Donovan himself — and meet their daughters too. Of course, Lonnie and Donovan are British-born bards who happen to dote on country music and even if the accent is sometimes a bit "upper lip" the sincerity of the singing is undeniable. (Besides — who do you know on the country scene who could do "Rock Island Line" better than Lonnie Donegan?)

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Another Britisher, Donovan, hopes his daughter Estrella will sing western songs, too, someday.



Lonnie's daughter, Corinna, sings western songs with an English accent.

OH, OUR DARLIN'- DELIGHTFUL DAUGHTERS



Johnny Cash and June Carter are proud of their singing offspring.



Carlene Carter is June's daughter by her first marriage.



Rosalind Cash is Johnny's daughter by his first marriage.

"But that first night, I got the feeling backstage at the Opry that there were a few of them who weren't too happy to have me there. A few of them were maybe afraid of the competition (something I've really come to appreciate is competition), but there were some of them like June Carter who really made me feel welcome. She'd worked shows with Elvis, you know, knew the Memphis scene. Then there was Minnie Pearl, and Roy Acuff, Hank Snow... y'see, guys like Acuff and Snow are smart enough to know that people's tastes change. How many decades had they been singing even back in '56? Acuff's smart enough to know that new people are gonna come along and be accepted, but that doesn't necessarily mean the old ones have to go cut their throats. Hank Snow had befriended Elvis. There were a few small minds who wouldn't talk to us as we walked by, but I made it. It took a while, though."

Johnny Cash has proven that any man can accomplish anything he sets his mind to do. By using his great personal strength and innate musical ability, Cash has risen far and above his dreams. He is happiest, and as he says, "only completely alive," when he is performing, sharing with his audience the songs he loves.

And we're so glad he does.

by Pat Canole

TAMMY WYNETTE

/Continued from page 17

"It makes me feel uncomfortable to realize that whoever did it all is still out there somewhere," she said. "It's just been a nightmare. This is the most baffling part of all," she continued to explain. "I can't think of any reasons why. I offered him what money I had with me, I offered him all my credit cards and my car."

Ms. Wynette said she suffered a broken cheekbone during the incident when she was thrown out of her car in Giles County south of Nashville.

Tammy was born near Elvis Presley's birthplace of Tupelo, Mississippi on May 5, 1942. Her

father was a musician, but his death, while Tammy was only a couple of months old, caused a temporary breakup in the family and a personal loss which Tammy never quite made up for. She was left with her grandparents while, to make ends meet, her mother sought war defense work at an aircraft factory in Birmingham, Alabama.

Tammy enjoyed life on her grandpappy's farm, and the marvelous feeling of freedom that youngsters experience in country areas—even when money and the mokest luxuries it will buy seem a long way off. Though by no means thrifty in the monetary sense, her dather had, nevertheless, accumulated numerous musical instruments, including an old piano, so that the seeds of Tammy Wynette's musical heritage were sown.

Growing up in the Bible Belt of the Deep South, she could hardly escape the influence of religious music, not that she ever wanted to, and within a couple of years after the end of World War II, at the tender age of six, to the approval of all concerned, Tammy had declared her intention to be a singer.

While still at school, her ambition achieved modest fulfillment with random appearances in school concerts and local radio broadcasts. But suddenly her dreams of becoming a singer were forced to take second place to that of being a young wife, for on her first year out of school, Tammy had fallen in love and married.

Three children arrived in brisk succession, but by the time her third daughter was born—the child was subsequently found to be suffering from a spinal disease—her marriage was in ruins and Tammy had followed her mother's footsteps to Birmingham in order to get work to pay for the additional medical treatment her daughter so desperately needed.

She got work as a hairdresser, but one source of income wasn't enough in view of the heavy demands on it, so, again, she turned to singing as potentially a second source of income. Nothing much happened, although after the deprivations of recent years and the bad effects on her own morale

that the continuing struggle to survive were leaving, the exhilaration of appearing in front of warmly receptive audiences was exactly the tonic Tammy needed.

She had several auditions with leading record companies such as United Artists before the historic encounter with Billy Sherrill, who was then emerging into the music scene limelight as executive producer of Epic Records. It was Sherrill who spotted and exploited the tenderness factor, and has been the creative drive behind all her hits, right from the very first one, *Apartment #9*.

One of their collaborations, *Stand By Your Man*, recorded shortly after their partnership was formed in 1969, has gone into the history books as one of the great country classics of all time, and put Tammy at the top of the charts as well.

Her enduring relationship with hit-maker Sherrill, contrasts snarply with the ups-and-downs of her highly charged personal life. In 1968, her marriage to singer George Jones seemed to many to be made in heaven which also produced a string of top-selling duet albums and a fourth daughter for Tammy.

After the divorce, Tammy remarried briefly to Mike Tomlin but the shutters went up on that one almost before the confetti was cleared away. Despite her aggressive qualities, she is the kind of woman who needs a man close by and for a while, Jones made no secret of the fact that he's still very much in contention. When she was unable to complete her tour in 1976, the agreeable George jetted into Britain at a few hours notice and picked up the pieces. And now they are back in the business of making duet albums together and Tammy since remarried this time to producer George Richey.

It's been a long, hard road for Tammy who possibly prefers only to remember the happy memories, rather than the sad ones. And from every indication this lady has it in her to stick it out to the end. She's a one-of-a-kind woman and she's gonna hold on—no matter what.

Patricia Canole

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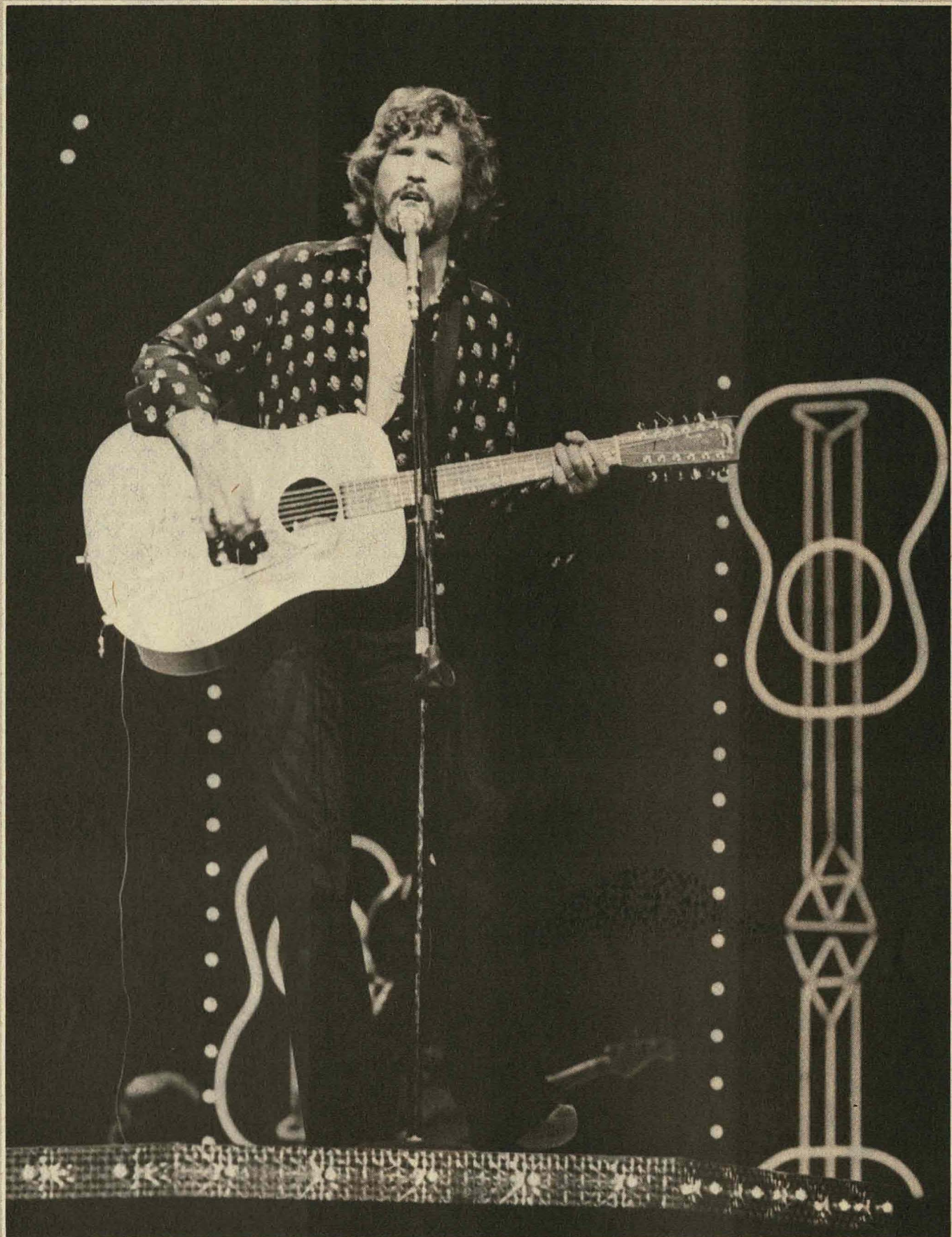
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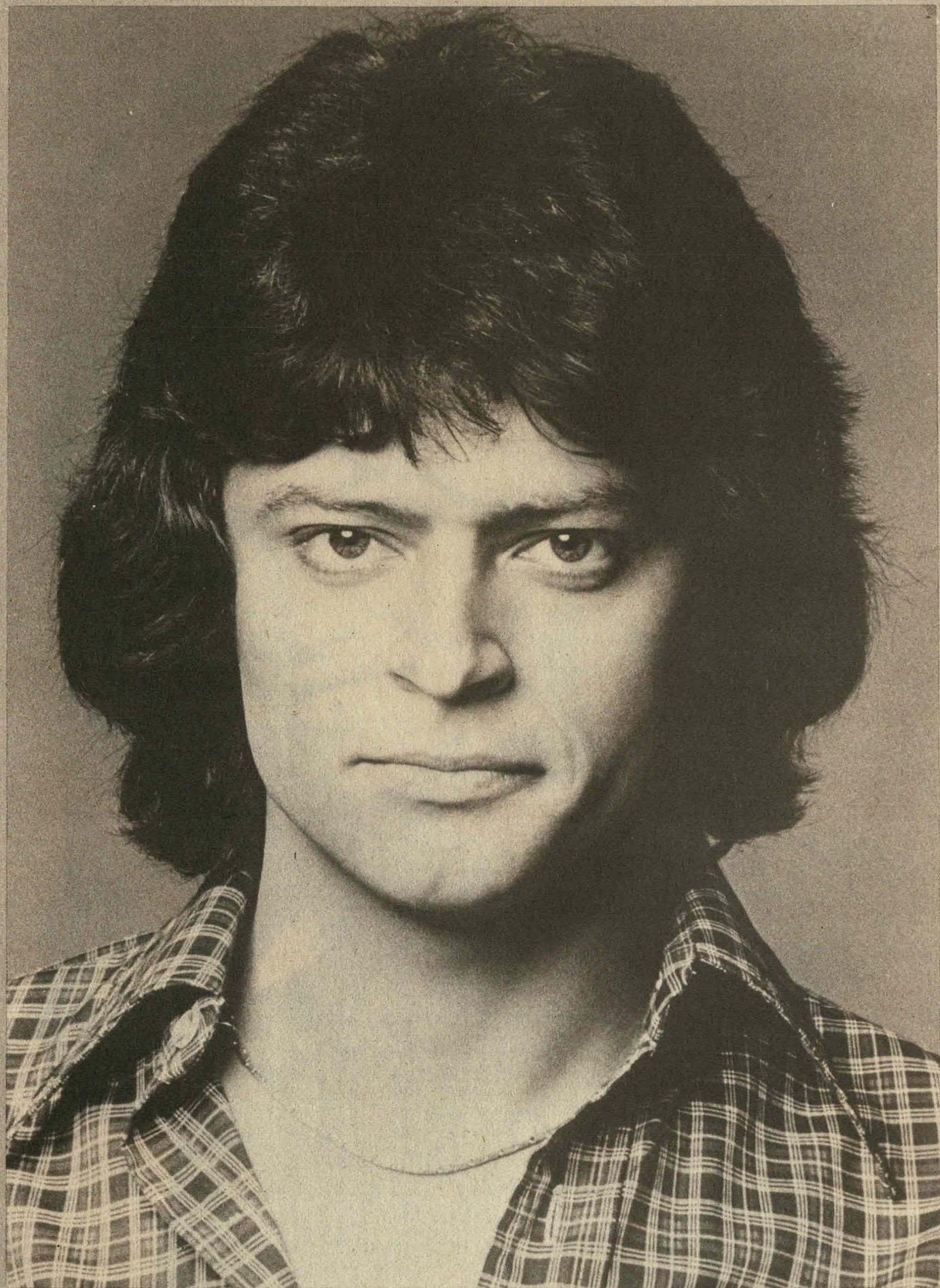
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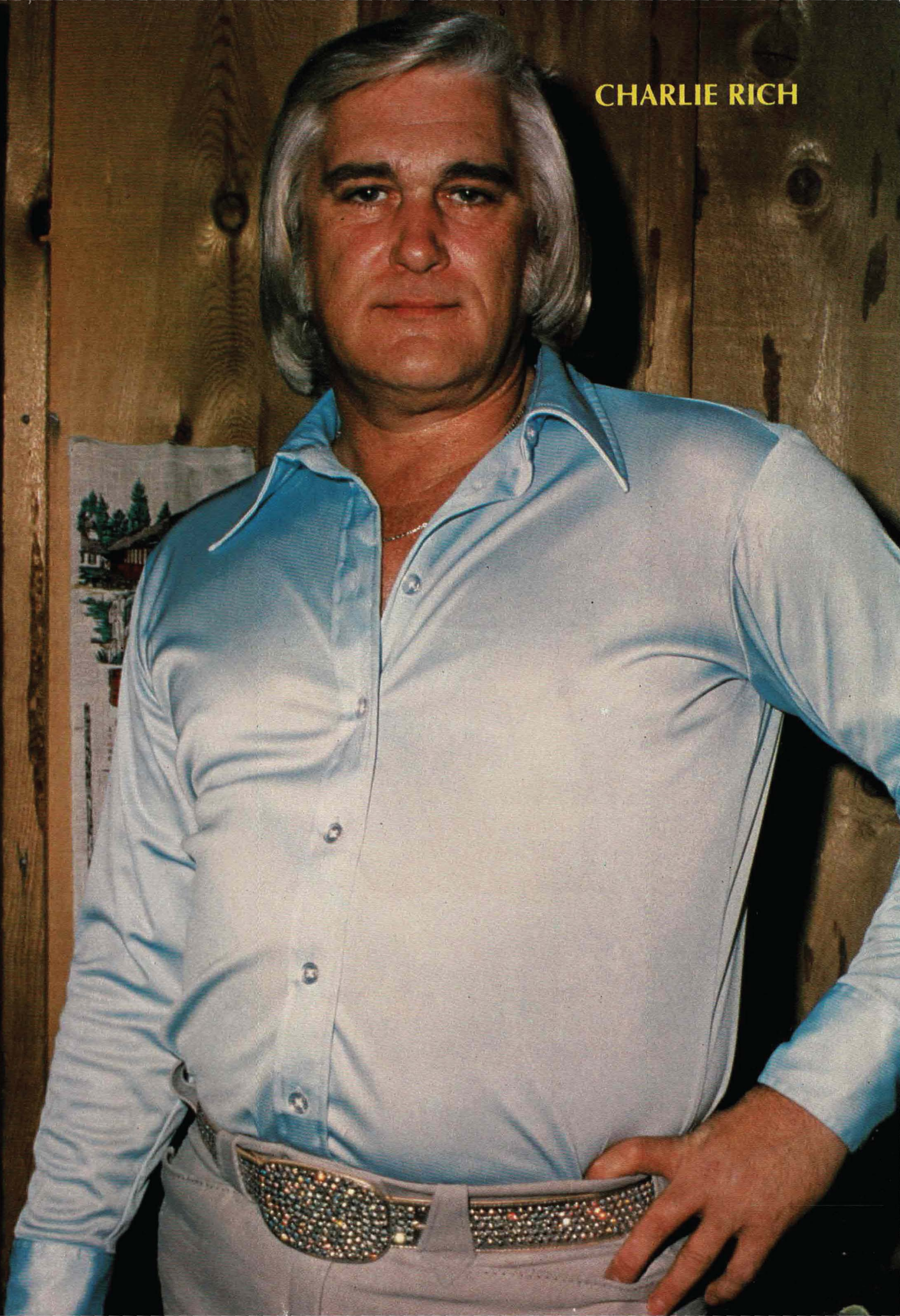


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